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IRAN:
Majles Sessions

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SUPPLEMENT
IRAN:
Majles Sessions

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[FBIS Translated Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Committee: The Majles held an open session yesterday with 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri presiding and deputies from the cities of Mahabad, Lamard, Kazerun, Rasht, and Urmia making speeches as preagenda speakers. Then the speaker of the Majles offered condolences on the occasion of the unfortunate incident of the Aseman Company Airlines airplane and spoke in connection with high prices and condemning the American military expedition to the Persian Gulf, which was reported in yesterday's issue. Then the Majles went into session. We call to your attention the details of the discussions.

'Abdol-Rahim Nurbakhsh, Deputy From Mahabad

The first preagenda speaker of the open session of the Majles was Nurbakhsh from Nurbakhsh [as published], who offered his condolences on the occasion of the death of the passengers of the Aseman airplane crash and the death of two Majles deputies and thanked the efforts of the minister of post for the expansion of the National Communications Network.

Offering his congratulations on the start of the academic year, he said: For days in the open and closed sessions of the Majles we have been discussing the issue of high prices eloquently. Because of your full knowledge of the complexities and the consequences of privatization and the obstacles and disruptions of the global oppressors to weaken the regime and the government, I will not repeat certain facts.

Why has the Majles ratified foreign borrowing in the banking system? Why was the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] budget bill not considered more closely? Do you not see the other side of the coin? Did you not know that the slightest increase in prices is a green light for chaos in the market? Why did you ratify the revenues gained from the prices in Note 25?

He explained: As long as there are a number of ungodly people and economic terrorists, they will put the oppressed people under pressure and suck their blood little by little. In this connection, not only are the ministers at fault, but the Majles also has a share in the high prices. Find a solution now, before it is too late.

Beloved President, the anarchists who betray the regime and the nation will not come to their sebses with begging and pleading. Today, no longer will a solution without a sword work.

Ask the Judicial Branch to stand up against them decisively and with the sword of justice. In another part of his speech, the deputy from Mahabad regarded some of the high prices as the result of lack of a strong mechanism and a precise system of planning and supervision as well as lack of coordination among the related organizations and said: Experience has shown that the return to previous prices after an increase is no longer possible.

Hence, in order to counter economic terrorism, a law with urgency and severe punishment even public execution, no matter from which group or faction, needs to be devised—in the same way that in order to fight cultural invasion the prohibition of the use of satellite [antenna] was ratified.

Asking the government for social participation in the plan to solve the crisis, he pointed out: The culture of participation enriches the government and safeguards against damages. It is clear to everyone that our economic independence depends on strengthening the agricultural sector, and investing in the heavy industries sector. Also, lack of competitive capability with foreign products is a problem. Despite the shortcomings due to foreign currency fluctuations in the country, the volume of exports of the agricultural sector reached $3.5 billion in the First Plan, which was 10 percent over the projected goals of the plan. In a country such as Iran, in which agriculture is the central issue for independence, we have to insist on the development of the agricultural sector. The secret to the survival of our country certainly is basic investment in that sector.

Nurbakhsh referred to the explosive population growth and said: Taking logical advantage of the natural and human resources and paying attention to agriculture are the only ways to salvation and economic development. Identifying the potential of various regions of the country in the area of pastures, forests, and handicrafts, with the continuous presence of the government in the villages, for which the Ministry of Construction Jihad is a symbol, will be the solution to many problems.

Thanking the minister of [construction] jihad for visiting his constituency, he pointed out the clarification of the position of the young generation in the course of the Second Plan and said: Just as in the prohibition of satellite equipment, the spread of corruption was the issue. Until the problem of the unemployment of the young male, which is most tangible in the oppressed regions that lack universities, is addressed, certainly the society will face various forms of corruption, and Islamic sanctity will be in question.

Seyyed Mahmud 'Alavi, Deputy From Lamard

The next speaker was 'Alavi from Lamard, who referred to the expansive military presence of the United States in the Middle East and the sensitive area of the Persian Gulf due to the Iraqi military movement and said: From the perspective of military experts, Iraq's military strength is not sufficient to require such an expansive presence. Perhaps the opposite is true. Iraq's military movement took place in order to justify this presence.

In continuation, 'Alavi added: With its presence in a small country called Haiti, confronting a coup d'etat

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regime, the United States has gained some degree of success. And intoxicated with it, the United States nurtures heroism, not realizing that experience has proved that wherever nations are confronted with the United States, as in Vietnam and Somalia, the end is the disgraced defeat of the United States.

Stating that in Islamic countries nations have risen up and are fighting heathenism and the oppressors headed by the United States in order to revitalize Islam, the speaker said: The United States must be assured that with the pioneering of the Islamic Republic of Iran as the motherland of the Islamic world, it will be disgraced. Here it is not facing regimes that are not supported by the people, but millions of people.

Then in connection with the crumbling of the system of prices and the chaos regarding the price of goods, 'Alavi said: This unpleasant situation occurred a few days after the statements of the grand leader to the Cabinet about which there are several questions. Were the ministers and related officials who were directly responsible for the planning and implementation of this directive of the leader incapable of predicting this situation or incapable of preventing it? In any case, their competence is in question.

In continuation, the speaker emphasized: If the directives of the grand leader are to be ignored and result in violating the sanctity of the leader, it must be understood that alongside it the legitimacy of the officials is also voided.

He added: The disorder and chaos with regard to prices, in addition to imposing economic pressure on the people, threatens the moral and spiritual foundations of the society, and the poisoning of the culture of the people cannot be easily compensated for.

Stating that the economic officials of the country must take the issue more seriously in order to prevent the destruction of the morals and spiritual structure of the society, 'Alavi said: The people understand the large plan of the government and fundamental investments and for this reason are hopeful for the future of the country. Hence, they tolerate the natural and normal pressures of the developmental plan. But extraordinary and abnormal pressures may cause skepticism concerning the small and large plans of the country.

The speaker continued: In order to provide the foundation for the people's cooperation with the movement and development and in order to improve the situation, it is necessary, alongside the efforts of the developmental plans and the implementation of large projects, that attention be paid to the daily affairs of the people as well.

Thanking the speaker of the Majles for visiting the province of Fars and the city of Lamard, and also the people for their magnificent welcome of the speaker of the Majles, the deputy from Lamard criticized the Vision of the Islamic Republic in the capital for not reporting the visit of the speaker of the Majles to Lamard.

In conclusion, he thanked the Ministry of Energy for connecting the Lamard electricity to the national network and made suggestions [as published] to the ministers of post, health, and education.

Gholam Hoseyn Nowzari, Deputy From Kazerun

The next speaker was Nowzari the deputy from Kazerun, who thanked the speaker of the Majles for visiting Fars province and said: The welcome the people of this province extended the president was unprecedented and was a sign of the people's sincere relations and love for and interest in the revolution and Islam.

Criticizing the Voice and Vision for not providing news coverage of this visit, he offered his condolences on the death of two deputies of the Majles. Thanking the people of Marvdasht for their united presence in the funeral procession of Rashidi, he added: The province of Fars lost one of its best defenders.

Mohammad Baqer Nowbakht, Deputy From Rasht

Another speaker yesterday was Nowbakht from the city of Rasht, who offered his condolences on the death of the two Majles deputies and in regard to economic issues said: The government's agreement to offer the bill to amend the law of the coordinated system of retirement and eliminate the rial ceiling of salaries of this stratum, which for a long time was one of the central issues of Majles speeches of the deputies, is a proper action from which the regime has benefited. The honorable government's acceptance of supervision over the control of prices and confrontation with the non-Islamic and immoral culture of price hiking is the realistic reaction of the government during these particular economic conditions to the expectations of the people and reminders of the deputies in the Majles. Even though various views are expressed in some circles with regard to the level of influence of this action under the present economic situation, its structural conditions, and the situation of the government, undoubtedly, alongside the implementation of the proper economic programs in the country, the control of high prices and prevention of price hiking require national determination.

He said: The declaration once again to fight price hiking in the sense that was stated by the president, indicating a determined and decisive decision, and also the verification by the grand leader that expressed his anxiety in this regard as well as the expression of cooperation by the heads of the other two branches and the ratification of the Council for the Discernment of Expediency are all evidence of the necessity of this urgent plan.

I hope that this plan with the same steadfast will that has been expressed will not become weak and ineffective in practice and the government and nongovernment price hikers are decisively and effectively dealt with. Even though, given the existing laws, especially the guild

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system law and the ratifications of the Council for the Discernment of Expediency, there is no legal void in this regard, I have no doubt that the Majles as in the past is ready to cooperate in any way to eliminate the problems of its benefactor, that is, the people.

He continued: The explanation of the officials for the increase in prices is the implementation of the economic modification policy and prices becoming realistic. For instance, it is said that the price of a liter of gasoline is more than 250 rials [R], and to offer it at R50 is a form of unrealistic pricing that reduces the resources needed for investment in the industries sector. Or in regard to the price of water, electricity, and other goods, similar reasoning is offered. As the deputy of the people, I accept any account given in this regard and know that the price of some of these goods and services in other countries is more than the price in our country, and the government by increasing these prices and eliminating subsidies demands the increase of resources for investment. But the other side of the coin must be looked at as well. Should the implementation of the economic modification policy only be implemented in the area of increasing prices? Is it possible to achieve economic modification by increasing the expenditures of the people without attention to increasing their income? How can an economic balance be achieved while in the balance of the income and expenditures of the people, especially the salaried strata, the income side always becomes lighter and the expenditure side heavier? Is this what is meant by economic modification? According to official statistics, in the first decade of the revolution, from 1358 [21 March 1979-20 March 1980] to 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989], the income of employees who are subject to national employment increased by 56 percent, whereas during the same period the indices of consumer goods and services increased by at least 371 percent. The destructive effects of this gap between income and expenditures is quite clear in the lives of employees.

Unfortunately, in the implementation of the economic modification policy, again this gap exists. In the official statistics based on research, the difference between the incomes and expenditures of the family, even after 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990], shows a figure of 133.78 percent; in 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992], 182.14 percent; and in 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993], 228.5 percent; that is an annual increase of 23.78 percent, 36.1 percent, and 25.1 percent, respectively.

I believe that even though the statements of the government organizations in regard to the need for resources for more investments and services to the people are just, and they must be provided, the collection of those amounts, even though for investment, from the small income of employees and families will place more pressure on the people and make their lives more difficult.

In conclusion, the deputy from Rasht mentioned the problems of his constituency and asked the related executive officials for their solution.

Baytollah Ja'fari, Deputy From Urmia

The next speaker was Ja'fari from Urmia, who in connection with the issue of high prices said: Mr. President, it was expected of the government to act more than it has in regard to the issues pointed out. Now that you have agreed about the pestilence of high prices, it is necessary to have a fundamental revision of the procedures for the operation of factories and government companies and the viewpoints of the Council for the Discernment of Expediency on the issue of pricing.

He added: I consider the strongest factor in high prices, in addition to the opportunists in the bazaar who lack any controls, as the government factories and companies.

Entrusting the investigation of high prices to the government itself is necessary, but not enough, because one side of the issue, in the opinion of the people, the religious scholars, and the Majles, is the government itself. Therefore, the Judicial Branch, particularly the Revolution Courts, must get involved.

Emphasizing that in dealing with the large elements, government officials and foundations must be given special priority, Ja'fari said: It must become clear what people have caused this calamity for the martyr-nurturing nation by misusing their professional, social, and family positions.

In continuation, the deputy from Urmia asked the Ministry of Education, the Employment Affairs Organization, and the Office of Accounting to take steps in regard to solving the problems of the hourly teachers of western Azerbaijan who have been accepted after written examinations and going through the difficult selection process and have served since 1367 in oppressed border regions with insignificant salaries.

While requesting the rapid implementation of the Maragheh-Urmia railroad, he asked the Ministry of Energy why the number of villages that were supposed to receive electricity in Western Azerbaijan from the funds in Paragraph C of Note 25 of the 1373 budget has been reduced from 103 to 73.

In conclusion, he asked the Majles Inquiry and Investigation Committee for the Foundation for the Oppressed to pay special attention to the problems of the Zamzam Company, the Fard Factory, and Canada Dry of Urmia affiliated with that company.

Ratifications

Amendment of the Accounting Office Law

The first item on the agenda of the open session of the Majles was the report on the first round of discussions of the Accounting Committee in regard to the bill to amend Paragraphs A, B, and C of Article 80 and Article 86 of the national general accounting law ratified on 01/06/1366 [23 August 1387], of which the general points were ratified.

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It is noteworthy that in amending the above-mentioned paragraph, it is stated:

A. Minor transactions are transactions the amount of which does not exceed R2 million.

B. Medium transactions are transactions the amount of which exceeds R2 million and does not exceed R20 million.

C. Major transactions are transactions the amount of which exceeds R20 million.

Amendment to the Law on the Establishment of Special Companies for Public Transportation Terminals

The second item on the agenda was a report on the first round of discussions of the Housing Committee concerning the bill to amend the law on the establishment of special public transportation terminals ratified in 1367, the general points of which were ratified by the deputies.

It is noteworthy that Note 4 of this law will be changed as follows:

Note 4. The company is permitted to transfer the shops and concession stands in the terminals of each place in accordance with the bylaws that will be prepared by the Ministry of Roads and ratified by the general assembly of the company to qualified applicants, whether in the government or nongovernment sectors, by signing lease contracts.

Amendment to the Law on Providing Needed University Faculty

The next item on the agenda was the report on the second round of discussions on the bill to amend Article 2 of the law on the procedures for providing the needed faculty of universities and higher education institutions of the country ratified in 1365 [21 March 1986-20 March 1987], of which the single article and note were ratified by the Majles.

Single article. The phase "and veterinary [fields]" is added after the phrase "medical group fields" in the text of Article 2 of the law on the procedures to provide the needed faculty of the universities and higher education institutions of the country, ratified on 01/03/1365 [22 May 1986].

Note. Those subject to draft who have passed their specialization in the above-mentioned fields from 01/03/1365 shall be subject to this law in terms of military service.

Proposal To Prohibit the Entry of Certain Unnecessary Goods

The report on the first round of discussions of the Commerce Committee concerning the rejection of the proposal on prohibiting the entry of some unnecessary goods was the fourth item on the Majles agenda, which was put to vote after discussions by the deputies and ratified.

The spokesman of the committee explained the reasons for rejecting the proposal and said:

1. Based on the law on export and import regulations and the attached charts (Tariffs 22.02 and 1704-A), the entry of foreign beverages and chewing gum is prohibited. Hence, the ratification of this proposal is redundant.

2. Based on Article 9 regarding the collection of some government revenues and their use in particular cases, the prohibition of the entry of foreign cigarettes will decrease government revenues, which is contrary to Article 75 of the Constitution.

It is noteworthy that the single article stated: From the date of ratification of this law, the entry of foreign beverages (nonalcoholic beer, various types of cola, carbonated beverages, fruit juice), toys, imported cigarettes, chocolate, various types of chewing gum, and other sweets is prohibited, and importers shall be subject to the law on the punishment of smugglers ratified in 1312 [21 March 1933-20 March 1934] and its later amendments.

Note. The amount that usually is termed souvenir and is brought by passengers is exempt from the contents of this article.

Extension of the Period for Failure To Evacuate Student Dormitories

5 [as published] The next item on the agenda was the bill on extending the period determined in the law requiring not vacating student dormitories, ratified on 15/07/1368 [7 October 1989], which was discussed as very urgent.

The parliamentary deputy of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education said in regards to this bill: Many of our student dormitories are leased; on the other hand, a significant number of our students are non-native and generally need dormitories.

He then added: On 5 Mehr [27 September], the law regarding residential homes and dormitories which are at the disposal of the Ministries of Higher Education and Health and Treatment should not be vacated, expires. A number of profit seekers are trying to have them vacated and had complained. Therefore, it is a matter of necessity to present the extension of this law as a double urgent proposal to the Majles.

After the opposing and supporting speeches, the very urgent level of the bill was put to a vote and ratified.

Amendment of the Procedures To Examine the National Budget Bill

6. The sixth item on the agenda was the proposal to amend the procedures for examining the national budget bill, which was presented as urgent by 15 deputies.

Explaining the urgency, Kuhkan said: This amending proposal is almost similar to the proposal we examined in the Second Plan, and since we have a short time until

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the second round of discussions of the plan and the 1374 [21 March 1995-20 March 1996] budget bill, we raised the proposal as urgent. In opposition to its urgency, Astaneh said: Usually, the proposals and bills that we ratify as urgent do not have the necessary maturity. In the amendment to examine the Second Plan, which we passed through the first round of discussions, there are basic problems that are becoming evident. Hence, this proposal cannot have the comprehensive maturity as urgent.

In support of it, Seyyed Morteza Nabavi said: We will start the examination of the second round of discussions of the plan after a week or two, and in Azar [22 November-21 December], we must examine the 1374 budget. As a result, there is no time to examine this proposal normally, and if this urgency is not ratified, as in the previous year, we will have to examine the budget alongside all these frustrating problems. After the opposing and supporting speeches, the urgency of the proposal was put to a vote and ratified by the majority vote of the deputies.

Proposal To Prevent the Transportation of Motorcycles Without a License Plate

7. The report on the second round of discussions of the Councils Committees concerning the proposal to prevent the transportation of motorcycles that have no license plates was the seventh item on the agenda of the Majles. The single article and its notes were ratified.

Single article. From the date of ratification of this law, all motorcyclists are responsible for obtaining license plates for their motorcycles within a period of one year.

Note 1. All law enforcement officials are responsible, after the legal period ends, to take serious and continual steps to arrest and guide motorcyclists without license plates to the City Hall and law enforcement parking.

Note 2. Traffic police units are responsible for providing the necessary facilities to issue license plates and certify the ownership of those motorcycles and obtain the related costs from applicants. The procedures for certifying the ownership of motorcycles without a document and determining the situation and the related costs will be in accordance with bylaws to be prepared with a period of two months by the Law Enforcement [Forces] and the Ministry of Interior and ratified by the Cabinet.

Bill on Tax Exemption for Private Establishments Involved in Rehabilitation of the Disabled

The last item on the agenda was the report on the second round of discussions on the bill on tax exemption for all private establishments engaged in affairs relating to the support and rehabilitation of the disabled and offering services to the retarded as well as boarding centers and preschools. The single article was ratified by the Majles.

Single article. All private establishments licensed by the National Welfare Organization for affairs related to support and rehabilitation of the disabled and offering services to the retarded and which are engaged in services with regard to day care and boarding centers for the disabled and children without guardians as well as preschools are exempted from payment of income taxes, provided the above-mentioned organization has supervision over their revenues and expenditures and those establishments allocate at least 10 percent of their care without receipt of any sort of fees to individuals introduced by the welfare organization. This law will be implemented with regard to operations ending in 1373 and later.

On the Margins

After being closed for one week for deputies to attend to the problems of their constituencies, the Majles held a session yesterday. The session was held in a climate of sorrow over the loss of two deputies in the passenger airplane crash. The decoration of the chain of Hojjat ol-Eslam Hoseyni-Shahrudi and Mr. Jalil Rashidi with branches of flowers and their pictures caused sorrow for the deputies, particularly since these two were popular figures who always worked hard to solve the problems of the oppressed people of their constituencies. It was also reported that Mr. Movahhedi-Savoji, the deputy from Tehran, had been hospitalized last week due to a heart attack and, after relative recovery, was transferred to his home.

According to the opinion of some of the deputies, about 600 million tomans were spent to prepare the national soccer team for the Asian games. One of the deputies who also has responsibility in one of the sports federations criticized those expenditures. He told our reporter: Why should so much money be spent on a sport like soccer, while necessary attention is not paid to other sports? In these games, it was quite clear that the athletic equipment of our players was of inferior quality to that of other countries. Given this situation, how do we hope to compete on athletic fields?

We have learned that one of the reasons for the delay in the ratification of the consumer protection bill concerns the procedures for the related punishment of the violators. In this connection, one of the deputies told our reporter: Because, based on the Constitution and the principle of separation of powers, the Majles may not make decisions for other branches, in the past seven months several times punishments have been determined for violators and announced to the Judicial Branch but were not agreed to. This has caused delay in the ratification of the bill.

Yesterday, the very urgent bill not to vacate the student dormitories for three years was ratified. In this connection, Mr. Zare', the deputy chairman of the Culture and Higher Education Committee, told our reporter: Out of 60,000 students who live in the dormitories, about 17,000 are in dormitories that are scheduled to be vacated at this time. If this number of students faces problems in regard to dormitories, under the present

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circumstances it is not possible to prepare suitable places for them, and it is also difficult for students to find rental housing. If we want the students to become the expert and competent force for the future, we must provide them with facilities and dormitories.

He added: At the present time, in addition to these 17,000 students who live in the dormitories, a large number of other students do not have dormitories. Considering that most students without dormitories are from provincial cities and from the oppressed strata, it is proper for the government and the Majles to pay utmost attention to this stratum.

18 Oct

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[FBIS Translated Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division:

The Majles held an open session with 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri presiding and the deputies from Qom, Nahavand, Abadan and Fuman giving speeches as preagenda speakers. Next, the speaker of the Majles gave a speech in connection with the anniversary of the martyrdom of her holiness Zahra. Then the Majles went into session. We call to your attention the details of the discussions.

Statements of the Speaker of the Majles

Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri in the open session of the Majles yesterday asked the Hezbollah people who are always present on the scene to actively participate in the funeral procession of 1,000 martyrs of the "sacred defense," which will take place tomorrow in front of the Majles.

In the beginning of his speech, he also offered his condolences on the martyrdom of the grand lady of Islam, her holiness Zahra, and expressed hope that the women of the Islamic nation will follow the path of that revered lady.

In connection with the distinguished personality of her holiness Zahra, he said: Her holiness Fatemeh is the person who stood with her life in defense of guardianship and the imamate. In addition to her active presence in politics and government, she did her utmost to educate the people. In worship, as well, she was so devoted that she would keep a prayer vigil at night so long that her feet would swell up. In terms of chastity, veiling, and preservation of Islamic values, she was so modest that she would refuse to sit next to her father before a blind man.

Hoseyn Irani, Deputy From Qom

The first preagenda speaker was Irani from Qom, who honored the anniversary of the martyrdom of her holiness Fatemeh Zahra and said: The heinous military expedition of the Great Satan, the United States, to the strategic center of the Persian Gulf is under any pretext contrary to the regulations and is condemned. It disrupts the stability and any sort of security in the region. It is the duty of the Islamic countries and international assemblies to condemn and stop such expansionism. The sheykhs of the Persian Gulf and some of the Arab countries, instead of being slaves of the devils, compromising with the Zionist regime, and revoking the economic embargo against it, must look wisely and return to the bosom of Islam and their nation. In this connection, he added: To test the Islamic and powerful country of Iran once again would be harmful and regrettable.

Also, pointing to the development and modification [policies], the Islamic culture, the people who defend the regime and are sacrificed, and to the economy of the country that is entrusted to companies and leech-like capitalists, with the price of post, water, and electricity increasing every day, Irani said: Instead of finding sham revenues, let us think about reducing essential expenditures and eliminating unnecessary expenditures and, by revitalizing the ethic of work and production, provide a suitable model for consumption.

The deputy from Qom continued: In the area of high prices, the factors contributing to inflation must rapidly and carefully be identified and eliminated through prioritization. Before that, with a swift plan, price hiking must be controlled, and after determining and announcing the actual price of 10-15 essential goods, every violator must be dealt with through the power of the Islamic government.

Then, in connection with his constituency, he said: Despite the unique political, social, cultural, and geographic position of Qom prior to the victory of the Islamic revolution because of fighting the tyrant, Qom was always oppressed, and later as well, due to the patience and self-sacrifice of this city, it has been the target of unkindness by the officials of Tehran province.

Irani added: Would such a city be treated in this way if it were in any other country, a city that is the center of the Islamic revolution and the late Imam, the cradle of the source of emulation of Shiism, the shrine of the Prophet's family, with a 24,000-student university and theological center, more than 100 research centers, and hundreds of thousands of immigrants and thousands of foreigners from 68 countries, millions of pilgrims of the shrine of her holiness Ma'sumeh, and the Sahab al-Zaman Grand Mosque? Hopefully, with continual attention to this city, at least the comprehensive plan of the city will be implemented and several incomplete streets built and in some way the migration that destroys the security, health, identity, and cultural and ethnic aspects will be controlled.

In conclusion, the deputy from Qom stated that preserving the sanctity of the law is necessary for everyone, and even more so for the officials of the regime, and said: Unfortunately, after a number of deputies questioned the minister of post and the final opinion of the Majles in regard to the calculation of every telephone pulse at 10 rials [R] was announced in the open session on 20

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Shahrivar [11 September] of this year, that Ministry still has taken no steps toward implementation.

Ahmad Zamanian, Deputy From Nahavand

The next speaker was Zamanian from Nahavand, who offered his condolences on the martyrdom of her holiness Zahra, mentioned that the role of religious guardianship in the Islamic government is the role of the imamate and prophecy, and said: Supporting the government that stems from this guardianship and strengthening the exceptional personality of the president is a religious obligation.

Then, referring to some of the leaders in the Persian Gulf who have prepared the ground for the presence of the Americans in the region, he said: We have no argument with the United States, the main enemy of Islam and Muslims. We say to you the residents of the Persian Gulf, from the day that our and your ancestors stepped into this region until now, they have lived a nobel and brotherly life. You know well that from the day that your wrong policy opened the way to the American military in the region, what you have gained is only destruction of the economic and political centers? What harm have you experienced from Islamic Iran, and what have you gained from the United States? In one word, you must know that foreigners and worshippers of foreigners will experience nothing but bitter defeat.

In continuation, the speaker said concerning fighting the price hikers: This issue placed the government and the Islamic Republic in a new scene of fighting against oppression and injustice. Hence, negligence in this fight is an unforgivable sin. Mr. President, the people understand the large-scale programs of your government and fundamental investments and are hopeful about the future of the country. But they see the unprincipled and un-Islamic actions of some of the newly-established companies who, like leeches, are in charge of foreign and domestic contracts and suffer. If you want to succeed with a regulated program, you must take them all under the control of the government and seek help from these good, loyal people, the likes of whom are not available to any government in the world.

Zamanian pointed out the number of decisionmaking centers that are bothered by the people [as published]: In this government, there is one Ministry of Information and one General National Inspection Office. If you had valued the results of the labor of these unknown soldiers of Islam by accepting their reports and every organization and agency had not created a similar organization to protect its interests, today our economic situation would not be as it is.

He added: The Ministry of Information must perform its duty under the supervision of the grand leader in order for the organizations, ministers, and agencies not to consider it as on the same level, making it unable to stop some problems from a higher position. Also, in fighting price hiking, they must be asked to identify the wealth collectors wherever they are, and through the Judicial Branch take from them what rightfully belongs to the nation.

Stating that most of the clerics in the seminaries and cities live in poverty, in regard to the role of dervishes, he pointed out: The destructive role of Sufism and dervishes under the guise of mysticism and mystics has weakened more than anything else the belief of the nation in guardianship and the imamate and prepared the grounds for the enemies of Islam. I consider this creeping and organized movement against mosques and religious circles harmful to Islam, the revolution, and Iran.

Unfortunately, the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, at night, in some way advertises and propagates this deviant line.

In another part of his speech, Zamanian requested help and cooperation from the government in regard to the issues and problems of his constituency and in regard to harnessing the waters of the Nahavand region and building dams.

Mohammad Sa'id Ansari, Deputy From Abadan

Another preagenda speaker of the open session yesterday was Ansari from Abadan, who offered his condolences on the martyrdom of the daughter of the revered Prophet. Referring to the stagnation in the rebuilding of the palm groves in the region, he said: Lack of drinking water and electricity in villages and the city of Arvandkenar is one of the great problems of our people, who after the passage of 12 years have returned to their birthplace. It is necessary for the ministers of energy and [construction] jihad to pay more attention to the war-stricken regions.

He added: Five years after the return of the people and reconstruction, our border guard stations are still operated in ruins. In my opinion, the Ministry of Interior must give priority to the reconstruction of border guard stations and give the needed resources to Abadan, considering the 12 years of backwardness and the destruction of all resources. He mentioned the high price of steel, cement, steel cables, and primary goods as among the problems of the people and said: Why is the Ministry of Industries not concerned about the war-stricken people of the country? Why do the cement factories not give cement to the war-stricken cities regularly? Why do you put pressure on the immigrants?

He explained: You must pay careful attention to the statements of the grand leader in regard to solutions to prevent inflation and high prices and know that these imposed high prices put pressure on the people, and the leech-like price-hikers suck the blood of the oppressed. The Majles must think of something and not allow for inflation to increase in the Second Five-year Plan more than it has. In order to preserve the sacred regime of the

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Islamic Republic, the Majles is responsible for preventing high prices. The high price of fuel and energy in the Second Plan is very dangerous. Contemplate it more carefully. The high price of oil, sugar, rice, water, electricity, and telephones has placed pressure on the people.

He thanked the president for providing funds to build the Payam-e Nur University in Abadan and asked the Planning and Budget Committee to place more importance on reconstruction and needed funds.

In conclusion, he emphasized the airline connections between Abadan and other parts of the country and asked for the elimination of the problems of this airport by the related officials.

Hasan Kamran-Dastjerdi, Deputy From Esfahan

Kamran-Dastjerdi, the deputy of the people of Esfahan, was the fourth speaker. In the beginning, he offered his condolences to the survivors of the victims of the tragedy of the crash of the Asman Passenger plane and, thanking the forces and various strata of the people for their presence in the funeral processions of these victims, he said: The reason for the crash of the airplane is being studied by experts. But, it would have been better for a person from the Roads and Transportation Committee to have gone with the tape that was sent to France.

In continuation, the speaker said: The expansive presence of the people on all scenes is a reminder to the United States not to speak nonsense and teaches the dependent regimes that regional ties can save them.

Mohammad Reza Shafi'i, Deputy From Fuman

The last preagenda speaker was Mohammad Reza Shafi'i from Fuman, who said: Everyone knows that these recent actions and reactions are the new conspiracy of the criminal United States in order to have an excuse for its presence in the Persian Gulf with land forces and also to empty the pockets of Saudi Arabia and the sheykhs of the Persian Gulf from Kuwait to the Emirates under the pretext of supporting them.

He said: If we want to reduce the increase in the price of goods, we have no other way but to start with ourselves, like water, electricity, etc. [We need to] modify the price of government goods; pay more attention to such essential goods as sugar, oil, and meat; and then engage in serious fights against bloodthirsty hoarders, and by punishing them and announcing their names and at times exiling and jailing them, make the people happy.

Pointing out that government organizations must set aside commercial competition, Shafi'i said: So far, which ministry and government-affiliated organization has responded positively to the call of the president and stepped forward to lower the price of their goods and services? The answer to this question will solve many of the problems.

In conclusion, the deputy from Fuman referred to the problems of his constituency and added: The Rasht-Fuman road, which should be called the slaughter place, has had more than 10 people killed and dozens injured, and no steps have been taken about it. In his visit to Fuman, the speaker of the Majles told the minister of roads: solve the problem of the Fuman-Rasht road while you are fresh on the job. But so far it has not happened.

Ratifications

Extension of the Deadline To Vacate Student Dormitories

The first item on the agenda of the open session of the Majles yesterday was the very urgent bill on extension of the deadline to vacate student dormitories. After discussion by the deputies, first the general points of the bill were ratified, and then the Majles discussed the details of the bill. The examination of suggestions by the deputies was postponed to the next session.

According to one of the suggestions of the deputies, which was ratified by the Majles, "the rental fee will be determined on the basis of the expert price of the day, paid to the owner, and included in the annual budget of the above-mentioned ministries."

Question of Deputy From Torqabeh to the Minister of Commerce

The second item on the agenda was the question of the deputy from Torqabeh and Chenaran to the minister of commerce. Mr. Moradi said: I am truly a devotee of the honorable minister of commerce and respect him. He is a religious, modest, and likable person. But my grave duty and responsibility dictates that I embrace the interests of the beloved nation of Iran and the preservation of the sacred regime over personal interests and in accordance with the Constitution defend the right. Of course, when I presented this question, many of the revered gentlemen still did not believe the seriousness of the high prices and saw the problems of the country in other issues. Thank God, at the present the president has emphasized the need to seriously fight against inflation and high prices, and the grand leader as well has defended and supported this God-pleasing action.

He then said: The economic disorder; very inappropriate distribution, uncontrolled, and immeasurable high prices; intolerable pressure; and outrageous and irrational expenditures of the very weak operations of the government organizations cannot be simply ignored. The double injustice, as the grand leader put it, that has been manifested in the ugly phenomenon of price hiking is that, despite the very bright successes of the government in the fundamental affairs of the country, unfortunately, in recent days, it has caused the skepticism and distrust of the people in the government, has made life impossible for the oppressed and vulnerable strata of the country, and has distanced us from reaching the most important goal of the revolution, which is social justice in the country.

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He added: Inspired by the valuable words of the grand leader that "many of the recent high prices are avoidable and the officials must strive to eliminate the problems of the oppressed stratum in the society," I would ask the minister to answer the following questions:

1. What was the reason for the uncontrolled increase in recent months of the price of goods needed by the people, especially sugar, shortening, and school supplies, and what steps have been taken?
2. At what stage is the pricing and labeling plan, and what is the result so far?

It should be pointed out that the minister was kind and offered explanations in the closed session. In private conversations, I found some of his statements satisfactory and hopeful. If these issues are discussed by the minister, the people will be more hopeful. There were also instances mentioned about the lack of cooperation of executive organizations, which he will explain himself, and which were in some instances unacceptable and wasteful, at least to me.

Response of the Minister of Commerce

In response to the questions of the deputy from Torqabeh and Chenaran, Mr. Al-e Eshaq said: Fortunately, detailed discussions have taken place during this period, both in the closed sessions of the Majles and in the Commerce Committee, and also in the press. In my opinion, the issues have been largely explained. If we want to examine the roots carefully, we must deal with all the factors.

Then, in regard to imports, he said: Limitations of trade and especially limitations of imports in order to control the rate of foreign currency (the policy which has been devised) have been imposed in order to reduce imports and support domestic products and in order to prevent the increase in foreign currency demands, which have resulted in the reduction in goods. Among the main factors of the disorder are: the change of the foreign currency rate from 60 tumans to 175 tumans, and at times the export foreign currency rate (more than 200 tumans); the change in the world prices of goods; the amount of foreign currency allocated (the total allocated foreign currency in the past three months is about $2 billion); as well as the operation of the Central Bank; the conditions that exist in the banking system and the banking conditions not being normal; and the fact that countries do not accept our L.C. in the usual form and that it must be handled in various forms.

The minister of commerce then referred to the increase in the price of government services and said: There is the increase in the price of services, both within the framework of the ratified plans and in the operation of government organizations, such as water, electricity, telephone, and service charges. If we look at all these factors, we shall see the results of these issues in the increase in prices.

Al-e Eshaq then referred to the issue of sugar and its shortage throughout the society and said: Annually, we need 1.4 million tons of sugar. Domestic production is about 700,000 to 100,000 tons. Hence, we have a shortage of 700,000 to 600,000 tons of sugar imports. The situation with regard to sugar is such that our products are between Farvardin [21 March-20 April] and Shahrivar [23 August-22 September] [text illegible] in order for us to be able to establish a balance. Last year, the coupons decreased to half on the basis of the ratifications of the government and the Majles. The rest should have been imported by the people privately, or the government should have imported it. For the coupons, too, we would have to buy sugar from Dey [22 December-20 January] to Bahman [21 January-19 February] in order to make it available to the people until Farvardin [21 March-20 April].

Our total open credit was only in Tir [22 June-22 July], when we were able to purchase 14,000 tons of sugar. You can see that lack of domestic production and open credit by the Central Bank (the lack of open credit is another issue) ultimately causes shortages.

He then pointed out: What was our legal duty at the coupon level? We had announced two coupons, and we offered a modification coupon in addition. The rest would have to be procured through the open market.

In regard to the policy of modification of imports, the minister of commerce said: Our border dwellers who are about 1.2 million people were allowed to import 50 kg of sugar per year, and this was stopped. Peddlers' imports were stopped; imports vis-a-vis exports [as published] were also stopped; the imports of the government also decreased due to lack of foreign currency. Hence, ultimately, considering these factors, we had no sugar.

In continuation, the minister of commerce also added: At the present, the conditions of the bank for opening credit (L.C.) have been normalized, and we have taken steps. Thank God, the ships have arrived and domestic production has also arrived. Now, we give ordinary coupons, modified coupons, and to the guild and industrial units and cooperatives, sugar at the rate of under 100 tumans, which was announced last night. Sugar at the rate of 97 tumans for cooperatives is available. Hence, the price of sugar on the open market, based on the information given to me, is about 130 to 140 tumans, and I think we will still see the prices drop.

In continuation, the minister of commerce referred to the issue of shortening and said: Our shortening usage is about 750,000 tons. Of this amount, last year 640,000 tons were distributed through coupons. This year, in accordance with the ratification, we had a commitment of 185,000 tons within the budget resources. The rest had to be provided by the factories themselves through imports.

We also provided some raw materials of the factories, despite the fact that this was not our duty, but the duty

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of the factories. However, in any case, the shortage of raw materials and the fact that no more than 25 percent of the market was at our disposal to regulate, caused the price of shortening to increase. Most importantly, the world price of raw materials increased. For example, it increased from $400 to $600.

When factories were supposed to bring 75 percent into the open markets, unfortunately, because of the reasons mentioned, they could not produce. We had shortening in Tehran, but in distant provinces, such as Ilam and Sistan and Baluchestan, you could not find shortening.

The minister of commerce also added: What we did was tell the factories the ratified rate that we were supposed to put on shortening. [We said] give it to the people in the form of modified coupons so that everyone will benefit equally. Ultimately, the decision was made that we would announce shortening in modified form once a month and one government coupon, as before. Thank God, we did this and the price of shortening is dropping.

Explanation of the Deputy From Chenaran, Once Again

After the statements of the minister of commerce, Moradi explained: Besides the increase in world prices, the problems concerning cash flow and the limitation on imports, we want to examine the causes of high prices. The people and the Majles accept the legitimate high prices, and the Majles itself has ratified them.

Our argument concerns the groundless high prices. For example, in the issue of shortening, which was mentioned by the minister of commerce, the world price of shortening was $400 previously and is now about $600. That is a 50 percent difference in price. Moreover, other production costs have not increased at this rate.

Moradi said: Prior to these problems shortening was made available to consumers at 900 tumans by the factory. If we add 50 percent to it, even though of course these purchases were made when the price was low, now with 50 percent it will be 1,350 tumans. But the price of shortening in 4.5-kg cans reached 2,700 tumans. How indeed can the poor and oppressed people obtain what they need?

The deputy of Chenaran and Torqabeh said: If the problem is the Central Bank, that bank is not a puppet of a foreign government. It must also act in the direction of the good and policies of the regime. We recognize the government as a single unit. Each member of the government is responsible vis-a-vis the decisions of the Cabinet and cannot acquit himself. In continuation, he added: If the Central Bank has disrupted the allocation of funds on its own, the policymakers of this bank must be identified and the decisionmakers introduced to the people and punished. If it is otherwise, now that the officials of the bank have changed, we should not put all the blame on them. If they have actually been the implementors of government policy and the government has dictated to them, now a minister or official cannot acquit himself and say that the Central Bank has done such and such. This is no way to run a country.

In regard to the increase in the price of sugar, Moradi said: In the society, the gap between our production and consumption must have some boundaries.

In connection with the labeling plan and controlling of prices, he said: This is a calamity that has come upon the people through the Ministry of Commerce, and no one else has had a role. At the time when the Majles prepared the urgent proposal to revoke the authority of the Economic Council, the Ministry of Commerce, in a hasty and unplanned measure, made itself a shield for the calamity of the Economic Council, and the results have been nothing but high prices and violation by sellers.

Response of the Minister of Commerce, Once Again

Once again explaining, the minister of commerce said: While we have problems in distribution, the problem is more general than the issue of distribution. It stems from production, pricing, and the bank, all together. And we admit that the issue of high prices is different from price hiking. We must deal with price hiking and be merciless. Fortunately, the labeling plan and what is now underway precisely follow this action. If it is necessary to deal with them, and we want to arrest the violator, we must know what the price is. We must have invoices. Preparations have been made for supervision and control and the next issue, the implementation of pricing. In connection with the implementation of pricing, it was supposed to be implemented from the beginning of next year, because production and procurement must be done together and also the violator dealt with. Because of the factors that have been created, the work has been somewhat expedited.

In connection with coordination among institutions, organizations, etc., Al-e Eshaq said: The Market Regulation Headquarters, with all its authority, that is, authority from the Majles, the government, the Judicial Branch, and various organizations under the supervision of the president, has precisely the purpose of creating coordination and unity in command. In connection with supervision and decisiveness in dealing with violators, all authority is taken from the punishment law, and two strong organizations are supposed to be established. The supervisory organization is in the Ministry of Commerce, and the judicial organization in the Ministry of Justice, and they will deal decisively with the violators on the spot.

After the statements of the minister of commerce, the deputy from Chenaran and Torqabeh did not consider the response satisfactory, and the question was sent to the Committee on Articles 88 and 90 for further study.

'Ezzatollah Damadi, another member of the Commerce Committee, told our correspondent: So far, the questions of three deputies have been discussed in the committee. In our opinion, not all of the problems concern the

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Ministry of Commerce. In order to clarify the issue of the high price of shortening and sugar, it is necessary to have an inquiry and investigation, identify the main guilty parties, and introduce them to the people.

He added: The Central Bank opened credit in Khordad [22 May-21 June] for 14,000 tons of credit for sugar, and when the problems became serious in Mordad [23 July-22 August] of this year, for 381,000 tons. But in Farvardin and Ordibehesht [21 April-21 May], it did not open any credit. Or in regard to shortening, in Bahman [21 January-19 February] it opened credit for 10,000 tons and in Tir [22 June-22 July], 115,000 tons, and this is at a time when problems have been created in the society in regard to procurement of these goods.

In conclusion, he pointed out: Not all of the problems are the sponsibility of the Ministry of Commerce, but, for example, concern the allocation of foreign currency by the Central Bank and pricing in the Economic Council.

Condolences of Deputies to the Grand Leader in Connection with the Death of Two Majles Deputies

In connection with the death of two Majles deputies, 150 deputies sent a letter of condolences addressed to the grand leader.

This letter states: [We mourn] such self-sacrificing deputies as Hojjat ol-Esla.i Hoseyni-Shahrudi, the deputy from Shahrud and a Basij member, who was always present on the scene, and the brother of two martyrs, the late Jalil Rashidi, the deputy from Marvdasht, both of whom were active and prolific in the trenches of the Majles as deputies and were considered true guardians of the sanctuary of guardianship and concerned defenders of the oppressed and the downtrodden, two valuable figures who with their valuable services found a place in the hearts of their constituents. Their loss has caused the martyr-nurturing people of our country, especially the people of Shahrud and Marvdasht, to mourn.

The fellow fighters of those two, thanking your excellency for your message in this connection, offer their condolences to his holiness the 12th imam and the grand leader for this irreparable tragedy and the loss of their colleagues, and ask for divine blessing for those two revered ones and patience and reward for their survivors.

On the Margins

Calm Speech

During the discussion on the very urgent bill to extend the period before vacating the student dormitories, Mr. Movahhedi-Savoji, who has been recently released from the hospital due to heart disease, registered to speak in opposition to the general points of the bill. Dr. Ruhani, the chairman of the session, said to him, if speaking is detrimental to you, you should avoid speaking.

Mr. Movahhedi-Savoji immediately responded: According to the physicians treating me, speaking calmly is no problem.

Reminder of the Deputy of Arak to the Minister of Post and Telegraph

Yesterday, Mr. Sharifi the deputy from Arak recalled the failure to implement the opinion of the Article 90 Committee in regard to reducing the rate of telephone calls to the minister of post, telegraph and telephone. In this connection, he told our parliamentary correspondent: The report of the Article 90 Committee was read on Sunday in Shahrivar [23 August-22 September; as published], but it has not been implemented since that date.

He added: This report, after being read in the Majles, was sent to the honorable president in a letter by Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri for implementation, and he also notified the Ministry of Post, Telegraph and Telephone about the issue.

Reminder of Engineer Yusefpur Concerning the Ministry of Mines and Metals

Yesterday, Engineer Yusefpur recalled the reason for delay in posing the question to the minister of mines and metals in regard to the high price of steel.

The Main Guilty Party in the High Prices of Essential Goods Is the Central Bank and Not the Ministry of Commerce

The question of the deputy from Torqabeh and Chenaran to the minister of commerce about the high price of essential goods was posed yesterday in the Majles. After the explanations of Mr. Al-e Eshaq, the issue was sent to the committee for further study.

In this connection, two deputies, members of the Commerce Committee, in a brief interview with our correspondent in this regard expressed their views. Seyyed Ahmad Rasulinezhad said: This question was raised in the Commerce Committee earlier, and in the opinion of most of the deputies, the response of the minister of commerce was determined to be satisfactory. Considering the investigation and examination in this regard, if we were to consider anyone guilty in regard to the recent high prices and determine the role of everyone, the smallest share is that of the Ministry of Commerce.

First, the main guilty party is the Central Bank, and second, the Ministry of Industries and other ministries that are in charge of production factories. And ultimately one problem concerns distribution.

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[FBIS Translated Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division: The Majles met in open session yesterday chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri. The deputies from the cities of Sonqor-e Kolyai, Sirjan and Bardsir, Shiraz, Dargaz, and Band and Shazand gave preagenda speeches. Then the

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Majles took up its agenda. We direct the attention of our esteemed readers to the details of the speeches and proceedings.

Mohammadi-Far, Deputy from Sonqor-e Kolyai

We do not want anyone in Islamic society to be sad about bread and the necessities of life.

The first preagenda speaker was Mohammadi-Far, deputy from Sonqor-e Kolyai. He commemorated the martyrdom of the esteemed daughter of the Prophet (peace be upon him). During his speech he said: These days everyone is talking about the economy, inflation, and high prices, and the nation's deprived and oppressed people are living in unbearable discomfort. Our country may be experiencing high economic growth, but the number of people benefiting from this economic growth is small. Most of the people are facing problems.

He added: We want a general approach to be taken, and we don't want poor and needy people toward whom one must show mercy to exist in poverty and need any longer. We do not want anyone in Islamic society to be sad about bread and the necessities of life. If someone in a family is ill, we do not want them to suffer beyond the illness itself. He discussed the fact that an anti-frugality culture exists in our country.

He added: The officials in government organizations must give top priority to the prophetic guidance from the exalted leader, who said that the culture of frugality must be spread through the country, and that this must begin with the nation's officials. As they enjoy their welfare and ease, they must remember for a moment those who are in pain, and the system's poor families. Then they must judge whether those people live as we do.

Mohammadi-Far emphasized: Whenever the enemies of Islam perceive that Muslims in some land are poor and empty-handed, that is where they focus their inflammatory activity, and that region is where they concentrate their cultural invasion.

Continuing, the speaker asked the Ministry of Agriculture to send chemical fertilizer on time to the farmers. He said: Why do some of the officials in the organizations in charge make promises to the farmers that they ultimately do not keep? This causes farmers to have no confidence in officials. Agriculture is the focus, and it is everyone's slogan. But in practice it has not been so, and we have not made significant progress. In the same regard he said: If we want to make progress in agriculture, we must provide the farmers with what they need in all areas.

Continuing, the deputy from Sonqor-e Kolyai praised the high station of the Majles. He added: Out of the hundreds of candidates for the Fourth Majles, the aware people of the Province of Kermanshah elected the most concerned, suffering, and populist candidates and sent them to the bastion of the Majles. Their performance is clear and evident in all areas. As soon as they came into the Majles they presented all the dimensions, differences, and issues with some of the officials, but so far nothing has been done.

Mohammadi-Far emphasized: This inattention has made the people pessimistic. If no attention is paid, in a future speech in the Majles I will plainly mention those violations and provide the documented evidence. I am astonished by the contradictory positions taken by some of the gentlemen from the Province of Kermanshah, which in the past have caused deep gaps to develop within the ranks of the religious people, and I am astonished that in this time they have not refrained from talking about the weaknesses of others and have not deviated from their former line after reaching their goals. I hope this reminder will be sufficient.

At the end of his speech he said: Why has the Majles chosen to remain silent about extravagance and pointless expenditures by some officials? Why doesn't it react? In their personal lives the Imam and the exalted leader are not exceptions. This is not merely a symbolic matter. It must be considered a government guideline for all the government's managers and officials, because it is preserving and perpetuating the revolution in a group of people who live simply and avoid palatial trappings and ostentation.

Seyyed Ahmad Hoseyni, Deputy From Sirjan

If we do not deal with corrupt people, they will deal with the Islamic revolution.

Hoseyni, deputy from Sirjan, was the second preagenda speaker. During his speech he offered condolences on the martyrdom of Her Holiness Zahra (peace be upon her). He said: If the brave nation of Iran knew the truth, it would cooperate humbly and would maintain its awareness in sensitive circumstances. To keep the people involved, perpetuate the revolution, and thwart the enemy's efforts to sow the seeds of despair, one must act wisely. The most important issues include lawfulness, orderly conduct of affairs, and not wasting time and the public treasury. Today the enemy is at our borders creating disruptions, is playing a role in the plundering and domination of the Persian Gulf, and is drawing the region into war.

He said one of the ways to keep the people involved is to act on the law. He said: Regulations must come first in the offices and courts. Violators and people selling at high prices, no matter who they are, must be called to account. Ineffective rumors, false foundations, and devils are being destroyed. In the divine government, the criterion is justice and truth, not personalities.

With reference to the Constitution, he said: The assets of the leader, the president of the republic, the vice presidents of the republic, and the ministers and their spouses and children are being investigated by the judicial power before and after they serve, so that their assets will not be increased in contradiction to what is right.

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To make the people hopeful, to disgrace rumor-mongers, to guard the public treasury, and to try criminals, one must act upon this principle so that abstinence and contentment by the nation's top officials will be merciful to the weak and a lesson to the worldly.

He added: If the behavior of those who own capital and factories has become unacceptable, their property should go back to the public treasury. We must begin with ourselves and the government companies. It must be understood that enemy agents make trouble as the result of influence, and they create problems for the people.

Continuing, Mr Hoseyni added: I ask the Ministry of Intelligence to study the roots of the recent incalculable incidents of high prices and to make a report to the Majles so that the main saboteurs will be identified. The speaker then emphasized: Of course the chief of the Central Bank must try to put the value of the nation's money in order. Imperialism intends to empty the Islamic revolution from within. We must be alert for spies and people who are selling the country. If we do not deal with corrupt people, they will deal with the Islamic revolution, and we will be to blame. The deputy from Sirjan said that it is very necessary to drive out the spies and the elements who have prostituted themselves, and to punish them.

Karim Zare', Deputy From Shiraz

The next speaker was Zare', deputy from Shiraz. In his speech he condemned the presence of American military forces in the Persian Gulf area. He said: I declare to world imperialism that we are standing with determination and unity with all our ability, following the path of the late Imam under the leadership of the exalted leader of the revolution. We, the children of 'Ashura and Ramazan, are prepared, as in the past, to sacrifice whatever we have to in order to guard the sacred government of the Islamic Republic.

He offered condolences on the death of Her Holiness Zahra (peace be upon her). He asked the minister of commerce to fight the increasing oppression of selling at high prices, and he praised and thanked the speaker of the Majles for visiting the Province of Fars.

He added: Despite the fact that the Province of Fars is in first place with many strategic products or crops such as wheat and corn, unfortunately it also has a special place among the nation's provinces with regard to deprivation.

In conclusion, he offered condolences on the death of two Majles deputies to their families and the people of his electoral district.

Ahmad Pirzadeh, Deputy From Dargaz

Another preagenda speaker was Pirzadeh, deputy from Dargaz. During his speech he discussed the new academic year. He mentioned the necessity for dealing with the problems of university students, and said: How can conditions be created that will be attractive to committed and specialist manpower? How can freedom of expression and thought be guaranteed, for the competition of ideas? Is this a good policy, or a policy to reduce politics? What role does the management of the universities have to play in bringing about the growth of research, study and education? Is the rule of law more prevalent in the universities, or is chaos and disorder?

He added: Payam-e Nur University, with an open and semi-attended system [as published] system and admissions of 120,000 students and 538 permanent academic cadre, is expanding without constraints every day. The number of university centers at the beginning of the year 1373 [21 March 1994] was more than 88, and the number has now reached 117 centers. Payam-e Nur is expanding itself to establish the conditions for receiving credits [as published]. This university has only one permanent professor for every 200 students. Most of these have only BA or Master's degrees, and they get most of the other professors for 2,441 people from the Ministry of Education and Training and the free market.

He added: Compared to the traditional universities, in the semi-attended university, for each class unit in a term they do not hold a class for 18 hours and they reduce the time to one-third or one-fourth./JANINE, is a class usually 18 hours?? if so—for each class unit in a term they reduce the time to one-third or one-fourth of the usual 18 hours.

Continuing, he said: What kind of a university is this? It is not a traditional attended university, and not a semi-attended university. They have deprived the students of the services of the attended universities, and they do not provide the semi-attended services either. Now all that remains is the name of a semi-attended system.

He then discussed the management, financial, and administrative issues at Payam-e Nur University. He said: The suffocating atmosphere, the pressure, and the reduction of politics cannot solve the basic problems in the universities. Those who prevent the competition of ideas and thoughts are to be reprimanded.

He added: According to one of the students, of 500 pages of lesson material in one class, 250 pages were not taught, and the questions were taken from 50 percent of the material and the grade is sent, and is approved by the Inspectorate Center.

Pirzadeh emphasized: At Payam-e Nur University it has been more than 20 months since professors have been paid, but no official or manager has taken the responsibility for that. The disorder and lack of boundaries and limits at the university do not permit the rule of law.

Of course the financial problem of the aforementioned professor has not yet been solved. The creation of a suffocating atmosphere, fear and terror with violence, the illegal slashing of salaries in such a way that it can

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undermine any kind of constructive criticism by academic faculty or staff, and the creation of conditions for the spread of flatter will not benefit the system in the long term.

Continuing, the deputy from Dargaz said: Several months ago we went to the Central Payam-e Nur Organization in Tehran with one of the deputies to do a task. We sought to see the chief of the university. They said he has several responsibilities at several locations and comes to the university two days a week. We sought to see the vice president for instruction. They said he had gone abroad to do research and other things. His deputy was in a closed-door meeting. We sought to see the vice president for administrative and financial affairs. They said that as usual he was at the Majles and with the deputies to get credits. Finally, after saying goodbye to the university guard at a university with 120,000 students and 5,146 faculty and staff, we left and returned to the Majles.

At the end of his speech he addressed the president of the republic, the Islamic cultural revolution staff, and the minister of culture and higher education. He said: At the present time what official supervises, controls, and evaluates quantity, quality, and other things at Payam-e Nur University? Have you sent inspectors even once from outside the Payam-e Nur University system to study the situation and the university problems, in order to study first-hand the problems of the professors, students and staff?

Mahmud Astaneh, Deputy From Sarband and Shazand

Astaneh, deputy from Sarband, was the final preagenda speaker. During his speech he offered condolences on the martyrdom of the daughter of the Noble Prophet (peace be upon him) and on the deaths of two Majles deputies. He said: The late Rashidi was one of the active members of the Assembly of Combative Deputies, and his activities there were very valuable. At the last meeting of the Assembly of Combative Deputies, it was decided that I should offer condolences on behalf of the dear ones to the people of that region and that late man's exalted family.

He added: Today we are seeing mourning for thousands of martyrs. It reminds us of the day when these dear ones went to the battlefronts for truth, a battle against falsehood to establish and defend the Islamic revolution and the nation's territorial integrity. At the time when they went to bring about security and ease for the people, there were people in this society who not only played no role supporting the war and the front, but even ridiculed the departure of these dear ones. These were people who counted the moments until they would hear of an enemy victory. These same people have today attacked this nation's economy. By creating high prices and undermining the economic system, they have created many problems for us.

He thanked the Missing Persons Investigation and Search Group, and he asked the Supreme National Security Council to do more work to solve the problems of the families of amputees.

Details of the Bill to Extend the Prohibition on the Evacuation of Student Dormitories

The first item on the agenda at yesterday's open Majles session was continued consideration of the very urgent Bill to Extend the Prohibition Established in the Law on the Necessity Not To Evacuate Student Dormitories, okay?? whose details were approved by the deputies.

Article 1: Under this law, the prohibition established in the Law on the Necessity Not To Evacuate Student Dormitories enacted 7/16/1368 [8 October 1989] is extended for three more years. The rental price is to be determined at the expert [as published] price of the day and paid to the owner and is to be provided in the annual budgets of the aforementioned ministries.

This prohibition will not apply to sites that have been authorized for transfer since 7/16/1373 [8 October 1994] under civil law.

Note 1: A commission composed of the minister of justice, the minister of housing and urban construction, the minister of culture and higher education, the minister of health care, treatment and medical education, and the chief of the Plan and Budget Organization is required, within six months, to study the situation with the dormitories mentioned in this law, to study the resources and credits of the relevant organizations, to determine which buildings can be evacuated in a short time, and to propose to the government the appropriate procedures for replacing the evacuated buildings. The government must take measures so that by the end of the three years mentioned previously in this law, all the dormitories mentioned will be evacuated if requested by their owners.

Note 2: The commission mentioned in Note 1 in this law is required, after six months, to submit a report on its performance to the Majles Housing and Transportation Commission.

Note 3: To encourage the private sector to invest in the construction of dormitories, special privileges will be given to applicants who commit to building dormitories, such as land at regional prices, construction materials, and suitable banking loans.

Motion to Prevent the Conversion of 1,100 Hectares of Agricultural Lands in Esfahan

The second item on the Majles agenda was the Motion to Prevent the Conversion of 1,100 Hectares of Dry-Farmed and Irrigated Agricultural Lands in Esfahan, which was presented as an urgent motion.

In discussing this motion, Mohsen Kuhkan said: Discussion has been underway in the Article 5 Commission for some time concerning the conversion of 1,100 hectares of land, of which at least 900 hectares is agricultural, for the construction of an olympic village, in which there is

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not one rial of national or province credits. I asked the respected minister of agriculture, he came and said: "I am also opposed to it." When the matter was discussed with the Agriculture Commission, its members were also opposed to this conversion, without exception. The entire Tehran Freedom Complex is 100 hectares. On what basis are they going to build this in Esfahan? For years they have had 1,100 hectares of land to convert to an olympic village.

After talks by supporters and opponents, the motion's urgent status was put to a vote and approved.

Amendment to the Non-Litigious Jurisdiction Act

The final item on the agenda was the report from the first consultation of the Judicial Affairs Commission concerning the Bill to Amend Articles from the Non-Litigious Jurisdiction Act approved in 1319 [21 March 1940-20 March 1941], the general form of which was approved by the Majles. It is worth mentioning that the amendment to Article 361 of this law says: The court investigating the applicant's request will be announced once in an advertisement in a high-circulation local newspaper.

Based on the amendment to Article 364, if the inheritance is not worth more than 10 million rials, the court will investigate the applicant's evidence without publishing an advertisement and will seek the issuance of a certification of the limits of the inheritance, according to the requirements of the evidence for accepting or rejecting. With regard to the inheritances of rural people, if the price of the inheritance is more than the aforementioned amount, it will be enough to post an announcement on the village roads in the area where the deceased resided.

The Majles proceedings ended at 1015 because of the participation by the deputies in mourning the cleansed bodies of 1,000 shrouded martyrs from the imposed war.

Majles Notes

Yesterday Mr. Mohsen Kuhkan, deputy from Lanjan, presented a motion to the Majles to research and investigate the performance up until the end of the year 1371 [20 March 1993] of the municipality of Esfahan and the area of responsibility for the deputy governor general of Esfahan for development.

The urgent status of the Motion to Prevent the Conversion of 1,100 Hectares of Agricultural Lands in Esfahan for the Construction of an Athletic Facility and Olympic Village was approved.

In this regard Mr. Kuhkan, one of the deputies from the Province of Esfahan, told our correspondent: In view of the fact that the Motion for the Construction of an Athletic Facility and Olympic Village has no province or national credits, and the past has shown that the financial burden of these kinds of projects will be imposed indirectly on the people, it is therefore not specified what credits the officials have placed on their agenda for use building a project that will cost at least several hundred billion rials.

While the municipalities and rural areas in the Province of Esfahan are deprived of the minimum credits in athletic areas, there is no necessity to carry out this task, especially since this project was to be built on agricultural lands. However, if the necessary credits are provided to build this project on unused land, there will be no opposition.

Tuesday afternoon this week Dr. Tavakoli, deputy from Khomeyn, Mr Irani, deputy from Qom and Engineer Gharazi, minister of post, telegraph and telephone, met to study the reasons for the excessive increase in the rate for foreign mail.

In this regard Dr. Tavakoli told our correspondent: According to Paragraph D Note 25 of the 1363 [21 March 1984-20 March 1985] Budget Law, increases in the rates for foreign mail, communications, and electrical power were prohibited, but on 12/26/1372 [16 March 1993] the Ministry of Post, Telegraph and Telephone, citing a measure enacted by the Economic Council, increased the rate for foreign mail. This is in violation of the Budget Law.

He added: Paragraph 3 of the measure enacted by the Economic Council states that the tariffs may increase a maximum of 100 percent. It was therefore decided that a meeting would be held attended by the deputies and Energy Commission and postal experts, in order to do a more comprehensive study.

23 Oct

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24 Oct 94 pp 5, 6

[FBIS Translated Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division: The Majles met in open session yesterday chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Nateq-Nuri, and the deputies from the cities of Asadabad, Tangestan, Sarvestan, and Ahvaz spoke as preagenda speakers. Then the speaker of the Majles warned of the plot by some Arab nations concerning the Arab compromise with the Zionist regime. His full speech was published yesterday. Then the Majles took up its agenda. We direct the attention of our esteemed readers to the full proceedings of the Majles.

Mohammad Baqer Bahrami, Deputy From Asadabad

Criminal America's invasive presence in the Persian Gulf will bring nothing but damage and harm to the nations of the region.

Bahrami, deputy from Asadabad, was the first preagenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session. During his speech he discussed America's military presence in the Persian Gulf. He said: If this presence is a threat to the national interest of Islamic Iran, then Iran, relying on

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everlasting divine power and the guidance of the leader of the revolution and the nation, will definitely deal so decisively with world imperialism that it will be a lesson for the history of the powers of the world.

He added: In view of the stability of the Islamic Republic, its victoriousness and power, the guidance from the vice regent of the Muslims and its having a powerful government, an expert Majles and an exemplary people, Iran will be successful in building the country. We are surprised that countries such as China, Russia, and the European nations act very weakly in the face of increasing expansionism by criminal America. We warn the nations of the region, especially our neighbors in the Persian Gulf, that seeking to pave the way for the invasive involvement of criminal America in the Persian Gulf will bring nothing but damage and harm to the nations of the region.

He asked the Majles to put the nation's economic affairs in order. He said: After visiting the administrative organizations, I want to announce my thanks to the officials of the Red Crescent of the Islamic Republic for their active and extensive involvement in the congregational prayers. I also praise the management of the Voice and Vision Organization for taking steps and beginning to make changes in the Voice and Vision Organization's planning.

Bahrami also praised and thanked the government for beginning sensitive and fateful projects, the judiciary for beginning the work of the general court in his electoral district, the speaker of the Majles for traveling to the region, and the people for welcoming him.

In conclusion he offered condolences on the death of the late Rashidi, deputy from Marvdasht.

Seyyed Kamal-ed-Din Shahriari, Deputy From Tangestan

The most important factor in high prices is the game of brokering and the changing of hands of goods during distribution.

The next speaker was Shahriari, deputy from Dashtestan, Tangestan, and Dayer. During his speech he discussed high prices. He said: One group, using the slogan about supporting the vulnerable classes, presents a dangerous image of high prices. Paying no attention to its positive and negative effects, this group considers all problems and their bad effects to be the result of the government's economic policies, and it attacks the government unfairly.

Continuing, the speaker added: Another group, defined as government officials and economic ministers, unconditionally justifies the existing high prices in society and gives one-sided support to the government's planning and policies. These people ignore certain naive behavior, the abandonment of the systems of supervision and control, as well as the extreme disorder in the nation's monetary system. They also suggest that the current course of prices and high costs is the goal of the government's planning and policies and is 100 percent inevitable.

Shahriari also said: There is also a third group that exercises care, expertise, and fairness in analyzing the roots of high prices sincerely. With proper analysis and assessment, they delineate the various dimensions of high prices and accept the external variables that are inevitable in the pricing systems. They also identify the other variables, which are not at all the result of proper economic planning and policies and are also avoidable, and they specify practical ways to avoid them.

He discussed the requirements for implementing the First Five-Year Plan, the fact that GNP declined continuously in the years before the plan, and that investment and employment were on the decline then. He said: Overall conditions at that time led the nation's economic management to create change in the economy in the past, consequently the adoption of new polices have to an extent resolved the nation's production cycle problems, national production began a cyclical course, and the nation's GDP increased an average of 7.7 percent per year. This rate of growth gives our country a high ranking among the nations of the world. No one can deny the success of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government in this matter.

Shahriari discussed the successes of the First Five-Year Plan. He said: It can be concluded that in the face of the improvement of important economic indicators, the increase in prices appropriate with the Five-Year Plan at the rate of about 16 percent per year is natural, inevitable, and positive. Not only has it not caused pressure on the classes in society, it is also a true indication of economic growth and development, and, in a word, of an increase in the level of life for all the people.

He added: Another part of the increase in prices arises from the decrease in the price of oil on the world market, the government's reduced revenues, the increase in credits given by the banking system to government companies and to companies affiliated with the government and the private sector, and the increase in the amount of currency in circulation in the private sector. This part of the increase is also inevitable, but it is being analyzed as negative and as the cause of pressure on the public.

Continuing, the speaker said: The increase in world prices for raw materials and the reduction in government subsidies for some basic goods and services have caused the cost of production to go up for most of the goods and services produced in the country. These increases are also inevitable, but because of the pressure on the public they are seen as negative events.

Shahriari emphasized: The goods and services produced are divided into two groups. One group is exclusively produced and distributed by the government or government companies and private bodies. In this case the

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government must take care to control the finished cost, reduce unnecessary expenses, and make an effort so that the goods or services produced such as water, electrical power, cement, and other things reach the consumer at the lowest price.

Another group is the goods that are produced and marketed in the private sector. In this case sound and free competition between producers will in itself bring about increased efficiency, reduce unnecessary expenditures, and lower the finished cost of goods, and any kind of control in the production process will damage production and lead to high prices.

The speaker discussed the fact that the most important factor in high prices, damaging to both producers and consumers, is the game of brokering and the changing of hands of goods during distribution. He said: The government and the insiders must try to reduce the number of middlemen between production and consumption. The consumer cooperatives must be reinforced, and capital investment must be encouraged in the area of production. Unused capital must be guided from distribution to production, for in this way all organizations and bodies that are in some way affiliated with the government who have gotten involved in distribution with huge investments will be stopped, and they must be allowed to get involved in production.

Esma'il Nowruzi, Deputy From Sarvestan

Martyr Mostafa Khomeyni strove to the limit of his endurance to activate the genuine forces of the revolution.

The third preagenda speaker was Nowruzi, deputy from Sarvestan. During his speech he offered condolences on the martyrdom of Martyr Mostafa Khomeyni. He said: That great one was undoubtedly considered a rare man of knowledge and one of the great professors at Qom Seminary and at Najaf. Martyr Mostafa Khomeyni was an active, hard-working and energetic clergyman, and he strove to the limit of his endurance in his work to activate the genuine forces of the revolution. During the Imam's detention he was a reliable refuge for combatants and clergymen.

In the year 1342 [21 March 1963-20 March 1964], after Imam Khomeyni (peace be upon him) was arrested as the result of the savage attack by the shah's executioners, one of his children was lost.

The cries of the arisen Imam continued until 19 Dey [9 January], leading to that eternal uprising by the people of Qom and continuing until 22 Bahman 1357 [11 February 1979], when Almighty God made the truth victorious over falsehood.

He then discussed the problems in his electoral district. He said: The district of Kavar, in the municipality of Shiraz, despite the fact that it is not very far from this city, has problems and deprivations that will be described briefly:

1. The lack of a branch of the general public prosecutor's office, whose creation is necessary.
2. The lack of a 24-hour school at the elementary and middle school levels, either for boys or girls, anywhere in the district.
3. The district of Kavar, with a population of more than 60,000 and 45 rural areas, has only three villages. Since the beginning of the revolution, one of the region's important problems has been weak security, high rates of armed robbery, and disturbances by rebellious individuals. It is necessary to create police stations in the existing villages.
4. Another need in this district is a hospital and an emergency medical center.

He then said that the drop in the water table is one of the important factors in the region's deprivation. He added: The district of Sarvestan, despite having a long history, suffers many deprivations.

Seyyed Mohammad Reza Mavalizadeh, Deputy From Ahvaz

The period of guidance, reminders, and advice to those selling at high prices is over, and the sensitive moment of punishments has arrived.

The final preagenda speaker was Mavalizadeh, deputy from Ahvaz. During his speech he said: Now that criminal America has moved militarily on the Persian Gulf and is showing its power, it is appropriate that the ceremonies for 13 Aban [4 November], National Day of Combat Against World Imperialism Led By Criminal America, be as glorious as possible. We must turn out in solidarity to show that the Muslim, free, and combative nation of Iran still stands firm and strong behind its revolutionary positions, led by its uncompromising leader, and that it will not back down even one step.

Continuing, he condemned King Husayn's compromise with the Zionist regime and the firing of this country's parliamentary speaker. He said: I am confident that in the near future these measures will lead to the final defeat of the compromisers.

Mavalizadeh discussed the problem of high prices. He said: The people are expecting decisive, coordinated, and ceaseless measures from the nation's three powers in the fight against the shameful phenomenon of selling at high prices. The period of guidance, reminders, and advice to those selling at high prices is over, and the sensitive moment of punishments has arrived. In this regard the punishments of cash fines, imprisonments, limitations, and penalties, and the confiscation of property and assets will be applied without the slightest deviation, and the economic terrorists, who have gotten hold of the economy by creating octopus networks and who are exact manifestations of counterrevolutionary activity and corruption on the earth, will be sent to the death chambers.

Continuing, the deputy from Ahvaz said: I ask the Council of Ministers to give the necessary attention to

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solving the employment problem in the Province of Khuzestan, so that we will no longer see unemployment in this province. At the end of his speech, the speaker issued memoranda to the following: the minister of health care, concerning the creation of a cardiac surgery ward at Ahvaz's Golestan Hospital and increasing the medicinal ration; the Plan and Budget Organization, concerning the procurement of the credits required to repair and rebuild teacher homes and the teacher training schools in the municipality of Ahvaz; and the Ahvaz Unexpected Disasters Staff about taking the needed measures to prevent the Karun River from overrunning into the streets and alleys of the city of Ahvaz.

Dr. 'Abbaspur's Question to Minister of Energy

The first item on the agenda at yesterday's open Majles session was Dr. 'Ali 'Abbaspur's question to the minister of energy. In discussing his question, he said: It cannot be accepted under any pretext that an organization acts outside the Five-Year Plan. If shortages and deficiencies are necessary in the Five-Year Plan, they must be resolved in coordination with the government and approved by the Majles, and Majles legislation must be implemented by government organizations.

He added: In the First Five-Year Plan the Ministry of Energy acted outside the Five-Year Plan. Instead of taking steps to complete the steam power plants and the half-completed and new dams in accordance with the Five-Year Plan, it bought a very large number of gas power plants outside the provisions of the Five-Year Plan.

In doing this the ministry did great damage to the government and to the nation's electrical power production structure. The purpose of asking this question is to make several points. The first has to do with ourselves, the deputies of the Majles. When the Five-Year Plan is approved, our work on it is not over. We deputies and specialist commissions must see that the executive organizations act in accordance with the Five-Year Plan, and if they act outside the plan, the Majles and the specialist commissions must issue the first memo to the relevant organizations.

The second memo must go to the Plan and Budget Organization as the organization that is responsible for planning in the country. If an organization wants to act outside the plan, the Plan and Budget Organization must not give the approved budgets.

The third memorandum must go to the executive organizations. If a change in the plan is necessary, they cannot act on their own. Therefore the changes in the government must be both coordinated and approved by the Majles. For example, a gas power plant cannot be bought without coordinating the fuel with the Ministry of Petroleum. The dams project cannot be suspended without coordinating with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of the Construction Jihad.

Dr. 'Abbaspur then explained: Under the First Five-Year Plan the Ministry of Energy was to act in such a way that 4,753 megawatts of power plants would come on line, but only 1,767 megawatts came on line, meaning 37 percent of the figure given in the plan. At the same time, in view of the fact that the time required to build a steam power plant is effectively longer than the duration of a five-year plan, the Ministry of Energy was therefore supposed to take measures and to act in such a way that during the Second Five-Year Plan 10,249 megawatts of steam power plants would join the network. However, according to the reports given, especially in the Combined Commission, the Ministry of Energy is likely to add to the network only about 3,521 megawatts, or 24 percent of the figure in the plan. Most of these steam power plants were bought before the Five-Year Plan.

The deputy from Tehran then discussed hydroelectric power plants. He said: Under the First Five-Year Plan the Ministry of Energy was to have added 169 megawatts to the network, of which only 11 megawatts was added, or 6.5 percent of the figure given in the Five-Year Plan. Likewise, in view of the fact that it takes a long time to build a dam, more than eight years, under the Five-Year Plan 4,547 megawatts of hydroelectric power plants were planned, but probably a maximum of only 708 megawatts of hydroelectric power plants, or 15.5 percent of the figure given in the plan, will come on line.

Minister of Energy's Answer

Continuing, Engineer Zanganeh, minister of energy, said in answer: The First and Second Five-Year Plans do not generally deal with projects. Rather, they designate general goals and objectives.

What was implemented in the power plant projects with regard to transfer during the Five-Year Plan was all done to reach the goals of the plan. As for his statement that attention was not given to hydroelectric power plants, I think that the total capacity attributed to the nation's hydroelectric power is not at its maximum, which is the production of 1,952 megawatts, of which 1,520 megawatts is produced by two dams, the Karun and the Dez. Another 430 megawatts is produced by eight other power plants.

He continued: When I went into the Ministry of Energy in the year 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989], not even one important project worth implementing was being studied for a hydroelectric power plant, for which we have the potential capacity of about 14,000 megawatts. The contracts for these were all signed after the year 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990]. In order to give attention to hydroelectric power plants, in 1368 we created an appropriate structure in the Water and Energy Company.

The first project is the dam and power plant project. This dam is 164 meters high. The capacity of its power plant will be 1,000 megawatts in the first stage, and it can be expanded to 2,000 megawatts. The contract for this dam

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has been signed, and the contract to obtain a foreign loan from Japan in the first phase has been concluded so that we will be able to use a loan of 160 billion yens to build this power plant.

The minister of energy added: We have also signed contracts for this power plant's diversionary tunnels. So far close to 15 billion tumans has been spent on it, and soon its construction contract, which was offered for international bidding, will be concluded.

Another issue is the Karkheh reservoir dam. This dam has a maximum storage capacity of seven billion cubic meters of water, and it will improve and develop the 20,000 hectares of land it services. Its power plant also has a capacity of 400 megawatts.

Our next project is to develop the Martyr 'Abbaspur Dam Power Plant, which has 1,000 megawatts. Its contract was signed last year and the foreign exchange credit account has also been opened. A contract has been signed with an Iranian company.

A contract has also been concluded for the power plant's construction section.

Further Remarks by Dr. 'Abbaspur

In his further remarks, Dr. 'Abbaspur said: Numerous inspections have been made of the hydroelectric power plants. A university team was even mobilized to study the report from the gentlemen. Mr. Zanganeh said that in the Five-Year Plan we are studying general goals. First of all, in the First Five-Year Plan they included the projects, and even in the Second Five-Year Plan they mentioned the names of the projects. In the First Five-Year Plan, concerning the general goals, it said that in the construction of new capacity the proportion of hydroelectric power plants must be increased and the proportion of gas power plants must be reduced. Yet in the First Five-Year Plan and even in the Second Five-Year Plan, with these figures that they mentioned, did we act in this way, or did we act in the opposite way? We added to the gas power plants, and we reduced the number of hydroelectric power plants.

In the First Five-Year Plan it was stated that maximum use of power plants with higher efficiency would produce a low load level. In this regard we used power plants with high efficiency, and it definitely is not this way. Again, in the overall policies there is a statement that in the First Five-Year Plan there should be cooperation between the Ministry of Petroleum and the Ministry of Energy in timely procurement of the necessary fuel for existing and new power plants. One of the major problems during blackouts was the lack of coordination between these two ministries. I wrote a letter to the minister of petroleum, and he answered: The purchase of 42 new gas turbines was not coordinated with the Ministry of Petroleum. The procurement of fuel was the only thing presented to this ministry, after the turbines had been purchased and delivered.

Also with regard to capacities, the capacities of the power plants under discussion in the First Five-Year Plan were to have added 169 megawatts of electrical power plants to the circuit, but only the Dorudzan Dam, with 11 megawatts, came on line. In view of the contracts that were signed in recent weeks, it was hoped that at the end of the Five-Year Plan, 708 megawatts of power plants would come on line. He then continued: The pump at the Siyah Pisheh Reservoir cost more than 40 billion rials [R], and this was completely cut out of the First Five-Year Plan. In the year 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993] the Jiroft Dam was to have added 30 megawatts to the circuit, according to the First Five-Year Plan. When this dam fills with water the diversionary water line to the power plant breaks.

The Saveh Dam was to have produced electrical power, but its turbines have not yet been purchased. Other than the diversionary tunnel, no further work has been done on the Karun Dam. It has been reported to me that the agricultural outlets for the Dez Dam have been closed for no reason, and this dam's 400 million cubic meters of reservoir capacity has been filled. If this continues the Dez dam will be dead.

It was suggested at the very outset that the 'Abbaspur Dam, because of problems with its initial design, be ventilated. This was done at a cost of 100 million tumans, but because of bad management by the official in charge of Khuzestan's water, who is not in the area a single day in the week, the flood of the year 1371 caused it to overflow and 30 billion tumans was spent on this overflow.

Minister of Energy's New Answer

Continuing, Engineer Zanganeh gave a speech in which he said: This is the greatest source of pride—that 17 years after the shah's government, this year we had no blackouts. This is the greatest source of pride in the electrical power industry. The Saveh Dam turbines have been purchased. The Jiroft Dam has nothing to do with me. This dam's diversionary water tunnel was built before I came. Now that it has been destroyed, must I answer for it?

He added: The fact that we gave priority to hydroelectric power plants means that we increased our credits. We did not study these power plants in any way. I think what should have been done under the Five-Year Plan was done.

Dr. 'Abbaspur Asks Minister of Energy Another Question

Before asking the next question of the minister of energy, Dr. 'Abbaspur said: If when he was here previously his experts had been satisfied that these were mistakes, the problem would have been solved. Here also I will present numbers and figures, and I hope you will also present numbers and figures.

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He then said: In reality, in the First Five-Year Plan we actually used these resources to buy gas power plants instead of for the purpose stated in the plan. For what reason would these gas power plants be purchased? If they said there was a problem with blackouts, we cannot bluff about the blackouts and then ultimately say on that basis that one must act in this way.

Continuing, he added: I agree with Mr. Zanganeh that we should never have blackouts. We are not talking about blackouts. The gas power plants were purchased and they used the budget that they had allocated for steam and hydroelectric power plants under the Five-Year Plan, to buy gas power plants, outside the Five-Year Plan.

He explained that we have less knowledge and technology about gas power plants than we have about steam and hydroelectric power plants. He said: The fuel for the gas power plants was not coordinated with the Ministry of Petroleum, and Mr. Aqazadeh reported in writing that he is not responsible for delivering gas to this power plant.

'Abbaspur explained: If all the organizations are going to undermine the First and Second Five-Year Plans this way, then why do we have these discussions? We write something and give it to the organizations, and they do whatever they please.

He added: Under the First Five-Year Plan we bought 42 gas power plants (and some of them were before the Five-Year Plan).

These include the Montazer Qa'em power plant, with six units, the Nishabur power plant and the ones in Qom, Tabriz, and Kazerun. We call them compound cycle power plants.

Now the gas power plant portion has been purchased. If the intention and the goal had been compound cycle power plants, then why didn't we buy them from the very beginning? Now in the Second Five-Year Plan we want to buy these gas power plants, yet they will convert the financing that will be obtained abroad to use for the compound cycle type.

Minister of Energy's Answer

In answer, the minister of energy said: The power plants we bought are about 32 and 33 percent efficient, and the steam power plants that have been built, which have 226.5 megawatts power, are 35.6 percent efficient. In the Five-Year Plan and in our actions we are moving toward building a power plant with 40 percent efficiency next year, and the statistics and information are available.

He added: We have come to this conclusion, and it is also in the Five-Year Plan, that the fuel consumption of steam power plants is moving as much as possible from fuel oil to gas. In the year 1362 [21 March 1983-20 March 1984] the Ministry of Energy and other ministries were told to go in the direction of gas-burning power plants. Until the price of gas reaches four tumans per cubic meter (last year the price of a cubic meter of gas was R3 and this year it doubled to R6), gas power plants are more economical.

The minister of energy discussed the differences between gas and steam power plants. He said: In terms of initial investment, a gas power plant reaches a maximum of no more than $300, while a steam power plant is difficult to get below $700. It takes five years to build a steam power plant, and a gas power plant is at least half that. The life of a gas power plant is less than that of a steam power plant, and the efficiency and return on a steam power plant is 40 to 42, and our gas power plants are 32 and 33. Domestic use of steam power plants is more than it is for gas power plants.

Continuing, Zanganeh added: The compound cycle power plant is something new. They channel the exhaust from the gas power plant into a recovery steam pot and from here, for every two megawatts from a gas unit they get two megawatts of electrical power. In this situation the efficiency goes above 50 percent.

He also emphasized: Our reasoning at first was that a gas power plant, with fuel costing a limit of four tumans, is more economical, and then we had the issue of blackouts. Now that we do not have these new power plants on line in the Five-Year Plan, we should have had about 8 billion kilowatt hours in blackouts. In the industrial sector alone there were losses of 30 to 35 tumans for every kilowatt hour in blackouts. Consider that this would be more than 300 billion tumans in losses; all our investments do not equal this amount.

The minister of energy discussed coordinating gas fuel with the Ministry of Petroleum. He said: Before the Five-Year Plan we had a series of contracts with the Ministry of Petroleum. In the year 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] our daily gas consumption was about 30 million cubic meters per day. Before the Five-Year Plan we had contracts based on 59 million cubic meters of gas, or more than twice our current need, with the Ministry of Petroleum.

He discussed the consumption of fuel oil. He said: Now our existing steam power plants consume about 17 million cubic meters of gas per day. If you are giving extra fuel oil, we could take these steam power plants of ours and these gas power plants and convert them to the compound cycle process, and this would definitely be more economical.

Continuing, he said the use of steam power plants is not economical.

Dr. 'Abbaspur's Further Comments

Continuing his remarks, Dr. 'Abbaspur discussed blackouts. He said: Blackouts, in accordance with the First Five-Year Plan itself, as the gentlemen said, were not caused by the capacity of the power plants. Rather, it was the procurement of spare parts and the failure to obtain

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fuel in time, especially in the cold season, which caused blackouts and made some of the power plants go off line.

The publication PAYAM-E NAYRU printed statistics that from the years 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] to 1371, in a the distribution network they surveyed, 54.5 percent of the blackouts were caused by the work of the repairs group; 35.22 percent of the blackouts were the work of safety relays; and 10.28 percent were caused by shortages in electrical power production and other things.

Continuing, he added: The maximum load needed in the year 1371 was 11,000 megawatts. The total nominal power of our power plants was 16,080.32 megawatts, meaning we had about 5,000 megawatts in excess capacity. Of course the storage parameters are accepted, but 5,000 megawatts means we have shut down more than 32 percent of the power plant without operating it. If there had been optimum management and use of capacity and even if no power plant came on line during the First Five-Year Plan, we could have eliminated the blackouts.

'Abbaspur also discussed the Arak power plant, which was to have been built next to the Arak refinery and was to have used heavy fuel oil. He said: For the Arak power plant a credit account of $750 million was opened, and they bought other equipment. With regard to the Iranshahr power plant, with which they signed a contract in the year 1368, it was to have come on line in the year 1372, when 14 percent of the technical work had been done. One of the reasons given was the difficulty in obtaining airline tickets for travel by contract workers. That very year 60 energy specialists were sent via Vienna, Amsterdam, and Frankfurt to the St, Petersburg Conference, and came back.

Continuing, he added: In the First Five-Year Plan we had the Fars power plant, which was cancelled. The West (Hamadan) power plant was to have been in the First Five-Year Plan. The Martyr Raja'i power plant (Phase II), for which Phase I came on line gradually and was a good test for Phase II, was converted to gas cycle. The Kerman, Azerbaijan and other power plants were also like this. Only two power plants were bought under the First Five-Year Plan, and they will come on line soon. One is the Ramin Development Project and the other is the Martyr Montazeri Development Project. These two were bought during Hashemi's trip to Russia in the Iran/Russia protocol, and I suppose if this trip had not taken place, this power plant would also have been converted to gas.

Dr. 'Abbaspur discussed the question of which power plant is better, and he also talked about the statistics presented by the Ministry of Energy. He said: This is the result of a computer program that we run based on information given, and the gas power plant has no preference of any kind. We gave this same information at the university to the computer. The earnings from the gas power plant were 4 cents per kilowatt hour, and the earnings for the steam power plant were 2.9 cents per kilowatt hour. It came out resembling the curve the minister of oil gets. Of course the compound cycle power plant is another discussion.

Engineer Zanganeh's New Answer

With regard to the Arak power plant, he said: We signed a contract with Canada for 1,100 megawatts. The Canadians were supposed to finance it, but there were foreign exchange problems, so it was not implemented. However we bought two electrical power stations along with the technology to build these stations domestically, which were among the nation's most costly foreign exchange sectors.

The Martyr 'Abbaspur power plant, with 1,000 megawatts, was bought with these funds, and the Arak power plant itself, at 1,300 megawatts, was bought from the Eastern bloc with the same funds. The issue of delayed payments is not something we want to discuss. The minister can do this. Basically, the other party to the contract that was concluded in Paris was not willing to do the work at that price.

Dr. 'Abbaspur discussed the gas power plant. He said: We want to see if anyone can tolerate having this power plant off line for three nights.

He discussed the fact that for more than two years we have not had a credit account opened. He said: We also have no foreign exchange this year with which to open an account. The Bistun unit, with 320 megawatts, came on line, and its second unit will also come on line in several days.

It is worth mentioning that, after the comments from the minister of energy, the answers were not satisfactory to Dr. 'Abbaspur, and the question was referred to the Articles 88 and 90 Commission for further consideration.

Motion to Amend the Law To Consider the Second Five-Year Plan

Another item on the agenda was the motion to Amend the Law to Consider the Second Five-Year Development Plan, which was presented to the Majles as a very urgent motion by a number of deputies. In discussing this motion, Dr. Fatahi said: The motion is to add a note to Article 9 of the Law to Consider the Five-Year Plan, saying that in the second consultation the deputies can discuss their proposals that have been presented to the combined commission.

He then said: In the first consultation, since we did not have a lawful article so the deputies could present their recommendations in the first consultation, we therefore proposed that they exercise their lawful right in the second consultation of the Second Five-Year Plan.

After talks by opponents and supporters the motion's very urgent status was put to a vote and was not approved but was rejected. Urgent status for the bill was not approved either.

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Very Urgent Motion to Question the Illegal Collection of Funds From the Public for Each Telephone Pulse

The next item on the agenda was the Motion to Question the Telephone Company's Illegal Collection of Funds from the Public for each Telephone Pulse, which was presented as a very urgent motion.

'Ali Yusefpur, deputy from Ardel and Farsan, gave a talk discussing this bill. He said: Several months ago Dr. Tavakoli, deputy from Khomeyn, asked how much the Telephone Company has increased the price for each telephone pulse. This question was presented to the Article 90 Commission, and the commission voted that the figure per telephone pulse is R10, meaning what was implemented in the year 1372. However, unfortunately at the beginning of the year 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] the Telephone Company made the base price R12, and has so far taken a lot of money from the people.

Likewise, the respected speaker of the Majles wrote a letter to the president of the republic on behalf of the deputies, and the president of the republic also told the minister to act in accordance with regulations. Unfortunately, the same R12 is still being collected from the people. In view of the fact that illegitimate money is being taken from the people illegally, it is urgent that I present this question and that we make a decision concerning it. Between you and me, we deputies voted on R10, not R12.

Since the motion's urgency status had no opponents, the motion's very urgent status was put to a vote and approved.

Very Urgent Motion on Not Evacuating Student Dormitories

The final item on the agenda was the very urgent Motion to Extend the Prohibition Established in the Law on the Necessity of Not Evacuating Student Dormitories (returned from the Guardian Council).

The Guardian Council had a problem with the principle of the bill, saying: The extension mentioned in Article 1, because it does not take the acceptance of the dormitory owners into account, is seen as being in violation of religious law.

Dr. Rowhani said concerning this: If we want to take the first amendment into consideration, its meaning will be that the bill should not be approved. If the Majles does not change its view, we will give the bill to the Guardian Council, and if they still insist on their view, the Majles will send the bill to the Expediency Discernment Council.

After Dr. Rowhani's comments, the proposals from some of the deputies concerning the principle of the bill were presented, none of which were approved, and the principle of the bill was put to a vote again and approved.

The Majles thus insisted on its view and sent the bill to the Guardian Council without any amendment.

Then the second problem in Article 1 was presented. One of the deputies proposed that the government's bill replace Article 1 in the bill approved previously by the Majles. This proposal was approved by the deputies.

Amendment to Article 1: Under this law, the period of prohibition given in the Law on the Necessity Not to Evacuate University Student Dormitories enacted 7/16/1368 [8 October 1989] will be extended another three years.

The text that was replaced reads as follows: The rental price will be determined based on the expert [as published] price of the day and paid to the owner, and will be provided in the annual budget of the aforementioned ministries.

In the discussion on the very urgent Motion to Extend the Prohibition given in the Law on the Necessity Not to Evacuate University Student Dormitories, which was returned from the Guardian Council, in a proposal Mr. 'Abbaspur asked that approval be sought from the Guardian Council. The council announced that extending the prohibition must be done with the approval of the owners. In this regard, he said during a speech:

We are insisting on Majles legislation and then sending it to the Expediency Discernment Council. What does this have to do with us? Doesn't the government itself know how to do this? The Majles has acted in violation of religious law and has voted in violation of religious law.

He also added: The Majles is required to accept the view of the Guardian Council, even if it is against the Majles's own view. Does the government want to solve a problem in a way that is against religious law? Can the problem of the students be solved in a way that is against religious law? The prayers the students perform there are void if the owner is unhappy.

After 'Abbasi's speech, Dr. Rowhani gave a speech answering him. He said: It is incorrect to say that the government and the Majles have acted in violation of religious law. Our religious law has both primary and secondary commands. Both are implementations of divine commands. The secondary commands have their own conditions, or are used when necessary or as a matter of interest. Implementation of primary commands are required and there is no difference, but the Constitution shows the way for these kinds of cases. For any instance the government identifies as necessary or in its best interest, it submits a bill for a secondary command. As the Majles, wherever we identify a secondary command as a necessity or as a matter of interest, we will vote for it. Our vote is precisely based on religious law. According to the Constitution, the Guardian Council will eliminate it anywhere it is not expecting a primary

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command. The Guardian Council is also doing its religious and lawful duty. When the bill returns to the Majles again for another opinion, if the Majles ultimately insists on its own view, it will send the bill to the Expediency Discernment Council, in accordance with Article 112.

Therefore we have followed the lawful path. The way you are putting it, the people will think the government and the Majles are acting against religious law.

Dr. Rowhani added: The Guardian Council has been improperly questioned by some of the deputies. The Guardian Council has done its duty according to the Constitution and religious law. Now Mr. 'Abbasi is talking in such a way as to question the entire Majles and most of the deputies, as if we are acting in violation of religious law. We are acting in accordance with our interest as identified by the Majles. Article 112 of the Constitution has certainly given us a free hand. I therefore have no choice but to explain that when the prestige of the Majles or the view of a deputy is brought into question, I must defend the Majles. The manager of the session must always defend the Majles as a whole.

Majles Notes

Yesterday Mr. Ahmad Salek, deputy from Esfahan and one of the signatories to the Motion to Research and Investigate the Steel Company for delaying its report, gave a guidelines memorandum.

In this regard he told our reporter: It has been about a year since this motion was presented, yet according to Note 3 Article 194 of the Majles Internal Guidelines, the time allowed for research and investigation is two months, and this can be extended to six months if necessary. I therefore consider myself obligated to pursue this matter, based on my duty as a Majles deputy.

The speaker of the Majles said in this regard: The order given will be carried out quickly, and the report will be given to the open Majles.

Yesterday Dr. 'Abbaspur, deputy from Tehran, made a comment while asking the minister of energy about the Jiroft Dam. He said: Despite the fact that it has been two years since the dam opened, it is not being used in the desired way, and the power plant, the regulatory diversion dam, and its agricultural water delivery channels are not being used. During this period much sediment has collected in it. In answer, the minister of energy said: This dam was not begun during my time of responsibility. Previous ministers are responsible for it.

Mr. Zadsar, deputy from Jiroft, citing the Majles Internal Guidelines, wanted to answer the minister of energy's comments, but the speaker of the Majles did not permit it. Addressing the deputy from Jiroft, he said: You have not been insulted, and have no need to defend yourself. If anything was insulted, it was the Jiroft dam! According to one of the Majles deputies, based on the research of the National Inspectorate Organization concerning the disarray and the shortage of sugar cubes and sugar on the market, and the disrupted delivery of sugar checks to former prisoners of war and handicapped veterans, the deputy director of the Sugar Cube and Sugar Organization and the official in charge of the Tehran Province Sugar Cube and Sugar Organization were discharged from service, and their files were sent to the competent authorities for investigation.

25 Oct

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[FBIS Translated Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division: The Majles met in open session yesterday chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam Val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri and the deputies from the cities of Torbat-e Heydariyeh, Kerman, Rasht, and Esfahan spoke as preagenda speakers. Then the speaker of the Majles gave a short speech offering condolences on the death of Mohammad 'Ali Nazaran to colleagues, the armed forces, and family. Mohammad 'Ali Nazaran was a toiling, hardworking, orderly, and friendly figure who was liked by the exalted leader. Then the Majles took up its agenda. We direct the attention of our esteemed readers to the detailed proceedings.

Mohammad Naser Tavasolizadeh, Deputy From Torbat-e Heydariyeh

The first preagenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was Tavasolizadeh, deputy from Torbat-e Heydariyeh. During his speech he commemorated 13 Aban [4 November]. He said: One of the reasons for the advancement of some Asian countries such as Japan is character traits such as hardwork, a work ethic, and orderliness.

He added: Profitability is increasing in those countries, but unfortunately it is negative in our country.

The speaker discussed the fact that in Korea the productive work day for one person is 12 hours, and it is said to be 46 minutes in Iran. He said: The exalted leader mentioned the work ethic and social order, and one must see how to plan in view of the vital role of these character traits, and how to apply the exalted leader's comments. When we look at the developed nations, we see that they begin training individuals from kindergarten and elementary school.

He emphasized: At the beginning of the academic year, in view of the overall educational goals in the Second Five-Year Plan, a practical procedure must be used to implement the exalted leader's instructions.

The speaker discussed the fact that almost a million university students are studying in various ways. He said: We must determine a philosophy for having all

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these students in our country. Is the goal to obtain credentials, or are we investing to obtain specialists and skilled personnel?

The deputy from Torbat-e Heydariyeh discussed economic stability and the fact that each person is involved in some way in price increases. He said: A producer said: The price of a bag of plaster was 20 tumans, then we made it 30 tumans, and finally 80 tumans, and there is no one to ask why we were selling it at that price.

A factory that went into production with government foreign exchange and a low-interest loan, unfortunately, without regard for the government assistance, seeks to obtain an enormous profit on unregulated foreign exchange. The speaker discussed the fact that a balance must be created between production, distribution, and consumption. He emphasized: The masses must be able to obtain what they need through supervision, controls on finished costs, and reasonable profit. For this purpose, planning must be done in the Second Five-Year Plan to maintain and stabilize the prices of several basic goods.

Continuing, Tavasolizadeh said: It is the market that must follow and act upon the government's policies in order to meet the interests of the public and the country. The government must not act in the shadow of the market.

He said: Why, when the prices for machinery, cement and other things go up, should millions of tumans go into the pockets of people who have thousands of tons of cement and iron in warehouses? Why shouldn't goods that are purchased at low prices be supervised to see that they are sold at the former prices? This matter receives attention in the developed nations.

The deputy from Torbat-e Heydariyeh mentioned the long delay in approving the Bill for the Vulnerable Classes. He said: If the approval of this bill had coincided with the elimination of subsidies, there would have been fewer problems for the low-income classes.

The speaker noted that we do not have a precise program for consumption and the culture of consumption. He said: If we do not think of a consumption model for production and distribution policies, the problem will remain.

At the end of his speech Tavasolizadeh called for support for farmers and he also commemorated physical training week.

Asadollah Rezavi, Deputy From Kerman

Economic growth without an appropriate distribution system will not bring progress.

The second preagenda speaker was Asadollah Rezavi, deputy from Kerman. At the beginning of his speech he discussed the nation's development in recent years from the point of view of foreign experts. He said: This does not mean that their statistics and numbers are more accurate than those presented by our officials and experts. Rather, first of all, in view of the fact that they usually regard our changes pessimistically, what they have to say reflects what has been discussed in this regard. Second, in any case, this is an image that foreign countries, especially the industrial nations, have of the development situation in our country, and until we understand that image exactly, we will not be able to correct it.

He then added: These figures come from the UN report on development in the past four years, and this report was even prepared by a powerful expert group in the UN, using more than 200 expert reports. One of the important indicators of development is the indicator of human development, consisting of life expectancy, per-capita GNP and literacy. Last year the Islamic Republic of Iran had 21 percent growth in its human development indicator, and it ranked second among the nations of the world in terms of the growth of this indicator. Likewise in the years 1361 to 1370 [21 March 1982-20 March 1992], it was one of the top 10 nations of the world in terms of growth in the human development indicator.

The life expectancy indicator means the average number of years a person will live who comes into the world today under current circumstances. In the year 1340 [21 March 1961-20 March 1962] it was 49.6 years, in the year 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] it reached 66.2 years, and in the year 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993] it reached 66.6 years and 67.1 years for women.

Per-capita GNP to an extent shows the economic situation of the people. It grew from $3,253 in the year 1369 to $4,670 in the year 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992]. That is, it grew about 43 percent.

The growth in the number of people receiving health care services was 14 percent. The figure was 73 percent in the year 1360 [21 March 1981-20 March 1982], and 69 and 83 percent in the years 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986] and 1370.

The public's daily calorie consumption grew from 125 percent of the amount of calories needed to 134 percent. In the year 1344 [21 March 1965-20 March 1966] this figure was 70 percent. This shows, praise God, that in terms of food we have no general shortage. If an adequate amount of food does not reach some of the people, the problem is with distribution and the consumption model, and it is hoped, with the measures the respected government has taken, this deficiency will be overcome.

The deputy from Kerman also added: The infant mortality rate in the year 1340 was 169 of 7,009 births. In the year 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] this figure fell to 41, and it seems that it has now decreased further. According to what I have heard, it is 25. Little attention is paid to this point, yet in terms of its social effect it is more important than many economic factors.

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Manpower distribution in the agricultural, industrial, and service sectors in the year 1344 was 49, 26, and 25 percent respectively. In the year 1370 it was 25, 28, and 47 percent, and in the year 1371 it reached 14, 27, and 59 percent. That means that 34 percent of the people working in the agricultural sector went to the service sector. Of course in the advanced industrial nations these figures resemble the ones in the last case. If agriculture is to be the focus of development in the Second Five-Year Plan, these figures must be reviewed.

He added: We have also had negative growth in some indicators. For example, with regard to telephone service, despite the fact that we have had an increase in the number of telephone lines in recent years, in the year 1370 this indicator decreased. It can be said that the reason is that we have had population growth, while in the advanced nations the place for growth in this indicator has been empty.

Iran's commitments in the year 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] were 9 percent of GNP, and this figure reached 12 percent in 1370.

He also added: Praise God, in recent years the Islamic Republic of Iran has made significant progress. Even so, it must be understood that, first of all, economic growth without an appropriate distribution system will not bring progress. This depends on how much extra revenue is spent on public health education and reducing poverty in society. In short, economic growth is not an end in itself, it is a means to an end. Second, we and all developing nations must not blindly imitate the developed nations in production and consumption, because apart from the fact that we need multiples of 10 in additional mineral resources, it is not clear to what extent we will be successful. The experiences of countries in years past shows that even with shared resources, the developing nations cannot reach an agreement with the developed nations that is in the interest of the developing nations. The only countries that can play a determining role in international affairs are those with strong national economies. This will not be achieved except by having a work ethic, social order, and more effort and consumption.

Elias Hazrati, Deputy From Rasht

In addition to the fact that the policy of economic adjustment is essentially inflationary and a factor in high prices, weak management has increasingly exacerbated this problem.

The next speaker was Hazrati, deputy form Rasht. During his speech he discussed the issues of high prices and combatting high prices. He said: What is the reason for these high prices? Just once, let us sincerely consider the main roots and factors in these high prices and inform the martyr-nurturing people about them.

He added: Some people consider the cause of these high prices to be the willful acts of some companies and production centers, while others think it is willful actions by monopolists and merchants. Others say the high prices are caused by ministries and mostly the government. Others think it is the Majles and its legislation, along with world inflation. Still others think it is the expansion of non-oil exports. Meanwhile, everyone is repeating that no matter who it was, it wasn't me, and all of us are looking for someone to blame.

The speaker explained: During the imposed war and the economic embargo of our country, a policy of economic contraction was implemented, and that can rightfully be considered an appropriate and necessary policy under those circumstances. Our brother Engineer Musavi, who was prime minister at that time, and we honor his memory, was able to manage the country during the most crisis-ridden time.

He added: After the end of the war and the beginning of reconstruction, the country decided to go from that policy to the policy of economic adjustment. At that time a number of experts did not think it was appropriate for our country to adopt the policy of economic adjustment immediately after the end of the war. No attention was paid to them, however, and we went from a state of sharp contraction to one of sharp expansion, which had its negative effects.

The deputy from Rasht continued: We pursued the policy of economic adjustment during the First Five-Year Plan, and then suddenly in the Second Five-Year Plan there were murmurs and discussions about stabilization. Thus the first mistake was the adoption of an improper and inappropriate policy, far from the nation's reality. The speaker emphasized: The essence and political effects of economic adjustment are a further issue. The foremost claim of the policy of economic adjustment is that the economy is not balanced and that to reach equilibrium we must use the pricing mechanism. Prices must be allowed to float and they must be allowed to run until they exhaust themselves. This means a race to increase prices. Nothing can be expected from this policy except enormous price increases, inflation, and high prices.

Hazrati said other results of the policy of economic adjustment are measures to reduce the value of the rial compared to the rest of the world's currencies. He said: When the official value of money is reduced 25-fold, all goods naturally become costly and the rate of inflation increases.

He emphasized: One of the basic and strategic reasons for high prices was the policy of economic adjustment, which has beset us these last few years.

He then discussed the issue of management practices. He added: In addition to the fact that the policy of economic adjustment is essentially inflationary and a factor in high prices, weak management has increasingly exacerbated this problem.

The deputy from Rasht discussed the lack of coordination and instability in legislation. He said: One day we

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deregulate the export of foreign exchange, the next day we prohibit it. At one time the registration of orders was prohibited and then we said it definitely had to be done. One day we encouraged and supported non-oil exports by all means, and another day we blocked them.

He discussed the weakness of management in the transfer of economic centers and privatization. He said: Without setting priorities, the result was that there was neither an increase in production nor in employment. Rather, after each factory was transferred to the private sector, a group of unfortunate workers was fired. Right now in the Province of Gilan we have workers who have not had salaries for 20 months.

The speaker, discussing this issue, explained that another dimension is the use of weak management instead of strong and experienced management. He said: Change and momentous work needs strong, courageous, and thoughtful managers, yet neither the Majles nor the government has gotten good marks in this area. Replacements have generally substituted weak and incapable individuals, and most of the deputies agree that the former managers were wiser, more experienced and more successful with their work.

Hoseyn Kamran, Deputy From Esfahan

If we want to retain the basiji spirit, this can definitely be guaranteed by giving attention to the deprived people, especially those who have sacrificed.

The final preagenda speaker was Kamran, deputy from Esfahan. During his speech he said: Because of the leadership of Ayatollah Khamene'i, the revolution has a prominent place, and if various powers come into existence in the world, they will still be faced with this idea.

Of course nations have accepted that this idea can save them. Yet if they create an armed camp in the Muslim region called the Zionist regime, if they connect the Serb episode with that, and if they promote people like 'Arafat, they definitely will not find their own place.

He added: If we want to retain the basiji spirit, this can definitely be guaranteed by giving attention to the deprived people, especially those who have sacrificed.

Continuing, the speaker called for control and supervision of prices. He added: Although some may claim that controlling currency in circulation is the main key to the issue, and this is true, the supervision and control the government has begun does not call into question the idea of controlling of the growth of currency in circulation.

With regard to controlling currency in circulation, he said: If the companies taking loans from the banks return these loans to the banks, then this control will automatically be achieved. Definitely, if the Majles helps with the completion of half-complete projects, this will result in reduced inflation in the nation's economic operation, because half-complete projects definitely cause inflation.

At the end of his speech Kamran discussed the Second Five-Year Plan. He said: We hope more attention will be given to education, defense, and agriculture, that it will not stop where it is now, and that the Majles will do its duty. I have always called for making do, and we must behave in an educated way. For example this very series "Apartment" [as published] must change its behavior.

Deputy from Abadan's Question to Minister of Roads and Transport

The first item on the agenda at yesterday's open Majles session was the question from Moqtada'i, deputy from Abadan, to the minister of roads and transport.

Moqtada'i, deputy from Abadan, read the text of his question to Engineer Torkan as follows:

With regard to the undesirable situation with the flights and with Abadan Airport, memoranda have been given repeatedly to the officials and the respected minister of roads and transport, but unfortunately they have brought no result. I have therefore asked the respected minister of roads and transport to appear in the Majles and answer the following questions:

1. What is the reason for cancelling a significant number of Islamic Republic Air flights to Abadan?
2. Why are the regulations, rules, and standards concerning passengers whose flights are cancelled not applied?
3. If the reason for the failure to land by some Islamic Republic Airline (Iran Air) flights was the commitment to observing international standards and regulations, why did the Asman, Caspian, and Iran Air Tour companies not consider it necessary to observe them?
4. What was the reason for diverting the Abadan-Tehran Flight to Esfahan on 3/18/1373 [8 June 1994]?

Answer from Minister of Roads and Transport

Engineer Torkan: In view of the limitations that are placed on Abadan, if the tail wind is more than 10 knots for a speed of 727 knots and more than 15 knots for a speed of 737 knots, the aircraft of Islamic Republic Airlines, in accordance with their guidelines, may not take off from runway 32, because they will have to circle in Iraqi air space and they have restrictions on crossing Iraqi air space. In the last seven months, 517 flights were scheduled for Abadan by Homa, of which 54 were cancelled, meaning 10 percent of the flights. Two of these cancellations weres caused by technical problems, and 52 were related to the weather in Abadan.

The minister of roads and transport explained: One of our limitations is the fog in Abadan. Until 0900 the air is such that visibility is limited for the pilot.

Torkan discussed the question about the failure to apply standards for passengers in the event of flight cancellations. He said: Printed on the back of our tickets are the

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conditions of the contract between the ticket buyer and the airline company. These apply to all Warsaw Convention member countries.

It says: Times shown in timetable are not guaranteed and are not considered part of the contract. The carrier may without notice substitute alternate carriers or aircraft and may alter or omit stopping places shown on the ticket. Schedules are subject to change without prior notice. Carrier assumes no responsibility for making connections.

In answer to another part of the question, the minister of roads and transport said: The National Aviation Organization observes and announces the minimum required standards for an operation, but the airline companies have their own separate domestic guidelines. One company sets its own minimum standards higher. In Abadan the airline companies may land on runway 32 without using navigational equipment, because there is precedent for this. Homa has also done this in a few exceptional cases.

He added: The way an aircraft approaches runway 32, the place where it reaches the eight-mile runway extension (this distance goes to two miles) and the minimum turn angle are established in the eight-mile standard. However some people, by accepting the responsibility, may maneuver in such a way that they do not cross Iraq's border. Homa's officials have said that in this situation they must turn at a 45 degree angle. The authorized turn angle is 30 degrees, but if a pilot accepts this risk and takes all the responsibility, he may land. Therefore some companies land, and we do not tell anyone to take this risk.

Elsewhere in his answer, the minister of roads and transport added: Concerning the question about the flight dated 3/18 [8 June] from Tehran to Abadan that stopped in Esfahan, a Homa aircraft was grounded with passengers in Esfahan, waiting for a part from Tehran. They therefore gave the part to this aircraft and changed its flight path to stop in Esfahan. This is the prerogative of the airline company, and it can do this on any other flight.

After the minister's remarks, Moqtada'i, deputy from Abadan, gave a speech. He said:

At the end of his speech the minister said he was surprised that they were not satisfied with his explanations in the commission. Mr. minister, they are not supposed to be satisfied. I asked the question, and I must be satisfied. If I am not satisfied here with these explanations, there is a way to pursue it, and this right is reserved for every deputy. It is better if the minister takes note of this.

Continuing, he added: I myself have been a passenger from Tehran to Abadan and from Abadan to Tehran. On the 17th the aircraft had a technical problem in Esfahan. The next morning we had two direct flights to Esfahan. That afternoon we also had a flight to Shiraz. However, the executive director must act within the framework of the schedule. He cannot do whatever he wants to do. There is a system. What is the meaning of public treasury resources, an extra quarter-hour of flying, an extra landing and takeoff, and delaying 117 passengers?

Is this just the whim of the executive director? This shows lack of planning. Concerning the minister's explanation about observing minimum standards, the deputy from Abadan said: Ultimately the minister is responsible. If something happens it affects everyone's reputation. Perhaps if you had raised these minimums such as the flights for Republic Air, the one or two incidents that have occurred in the last few years, one of which we saw recently in Esfahan, would not have taken place.

Continuing, Moqtada'i added: Mr. minister, you are responsible and in charge not only of Islamic Republic Airlines, but you must exercise full supervision over all flight affairs.

With regard to observing what is written on the backs of tickets, he said: Unfortunately that part that is about the rights and entitlements of the airline is carefully observed, and the rights of the passengers are not observed. What sins have the women, children, and public committed that they should be detained at the airport for four hours? What standards have they observed? The aircraft cannot land in Abadan so it lands in Ahvaz and discharges the passengers.

Concerning the Abadan Airport, the deputy from Abadan said: If your flight system in Abadan is this unreliable, why, as an international airport? Did you schedule flights 302 and 312 for Abadan among the international flights?

Concerning takeoff times, the lack of visibility, fog, seasonal winds, and passenger delays, he said: When you see all these flight cancellations, all this disorder in the lives of the people and the officials, you should either schedule the flights early in the morning or move them to evening so the people can plan.

After the deputy from Abadan was not satisfied with the answers from the minister of roads and transport, the question was referred to the Articles 88 and 90 Commission for further investigation.

Legislation

Question Concerning the Telephone Pulse Rate

The second item on the agenda was the very urgent motion to question the illegal collection of funds from the public, based on telephone pulse rates given in Paragraph B Note 25 of the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] Budget Law. The question is based on Majles legislation that the rate per pulse should be 10 rials [R].

A number of deputies made the following proposal:

> "What the Majles intended as the rate per pulse of telephone service was R12."

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Discussing this proposal, 'Alavi, deputy from Gorgan, said: If this proposal (R12) is passed, the government's revenue ceiling will be reduced by 13 to 14 billion tumans.

Speaking in opposition, Mohsen Kuhkan said: The tariff the people should pay is R10. Unfortunately, the respected minister of post and telephone and the telephone companies as a group either weren't careful presenting their numbers and figures, or they deliberately did what they did.

This proposal was put to a vote and was rejected.

The next proposal, presented by Kuhkan, Akrami, and a number of other deputies, was as follows: "With regard to Paragraph B Note 25, what is meant by 'the existing tariff' is R10 per pulse."

Concerning this, Akrami said: Our proposal is that the tariff intended by the Majles be that very R10. The Ministry of Post, Telegraph and Telephone has read something into the text.

After Akrami's remarks, this proposal was put to a vote and approved.

It is worth mentioning that since the beginning of the current year the Ministry of Post, Telegraph and Telephone has collected an extra R2 from telephone service subscribers, in violation of Majles legislation. With this clarification that has been passed in the Majles, the ministry will be required to return the extra funds collected since 1/1/1373 [21 March 1994] to the relevant parties.

National Health Care Insurance Bill (Returned From Guardian Council)

The next item on the agenda was the report from the Joint Municipal Affairs and Plan and Budget Commission concerning the National Health Care Insurance Bill (returned from the Guardian Council), for which three amendments were approved by the deputies.

The Guardian Council objected to Article 10 in this bill, saying that the matter in the article should be approved by the Council of ministers.

Subsequent amendment: "...will be approved and announced on the recommendation of the Ministry of Health Care and Treatment, and with the approval of the Supreme Council and the Council of Ministers."

For Note 2 Article 12 the Guardian Council objected that the Majles deleted this note.

Note 2 said: "Residents of cities with populations of less than 10,000 will have the benefits given in this law for rural people."

In Paragraph 3 Article 13, the share of rural people was amended based on measures enacted by the Council of Ministers.

Bill to Amend Article 100 of the Civil Court Procedures Law

The fourth item on the agenda was the report from the first consultation of the judicial and legal affairs commission concerning the Bill to Amend Article 100 of the Civil Court Procedures Law, enacted in the year 1318 [21 March 1939-20 March 1940], the general form of which was approved by the deputies.

The amendment to Article 100 of the Court Procedures Law says:

Article 100: If the plaintiff cannot specify the residence of the defendant and if it is also unknown to the court office, the text of the petition and its attachments, at the request of the plaintiff and on the order of the court, will be advertised two times consecutively in an official newspaper with regard to legal persons and with regard to real persons will be advertised two times consecutively in a high-circulation newspaper designated by the judicial power at the central government and in the municipalities for the publication of advertisements. The elapsed time between the publication of the second advertisement and the day the court convenes must not be less than 20 days.

At the bottom of the advertisement it must be explained that, if a subsequent announcement by advertisement is necessary it will be advertised in the newspaper only once, and the period for that is 10 days. The defendant, to whom the court date will be announced via the above method, may give his place of residence to the court. If he does this, subsequent announcements will be made to the place of residence he specifies. At any time when the plaintiff learns the place of residence of the defendant, he may request that the announcements be sent to that address.

It is worth mentioning that previously in Article 100 of this law three consecutive advertisements were required in the official newspaper and the time designated for the advertisement was 10 days.

Bill to Delete Article 17 of the Law on Permanent Wages and Benefits for Those Subject to the Army Law

The fifth item on the agenda was the second report from the Defense Affairs Commission concerning the Bill to Delete Article 17 of the Law on Permanent Wages and Benefits, Fixed Savings, Insurance Premiums and Health Care Insurance for Those Subject to the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran Law, for which Article 1 was passed.

Article 1: Effective the date of this law's enactment, Article 17 of the Law on Permanent Wages and Benefits, Fixed Savings, Insurance Premiums and Health Care Insurance for Those Subject to the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran Law, enacted 10/27/1368 [17 January 1989], is deleted.

Amendment to the Procedures for Considering the National Budget Bill

The final item on the agenda was the report from the Majles Domestic Guidelines Commission concerning

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the urgent Motion to Amend Article 106 and the Note to Article 48 of the Majles Domestic Guidelines (amending the procedures for considering the National Budget Bill).

The expert from the Majles Domestic Guidelines Commission, in discussing this motion, said: The amendment to this motion resembles parts of the guidelines that were added to deal with the Second Five-Year Plan, on the basis of which we are now considering the Second Five-Year Plan. One of the characteristics of this legislation is that to form the Combined Commission that deals with the annual budget bill, one deputy is chosen from each commission. The Combined Commission also includes the members of the Plan and Budget Commission. Another of the motion's characteristics will be that the deputies will retain the right to offer recommendations.

'Abbasi, deputy from Bandar 'Abbas, was the motion's first opponent. During a speech he said: The Combined Commission the gentlemen have created is a strange and odd commission. All the members of the Plan and Budget Commission and one person from each of the specialist commissions will participate. We do not understand what its legislation will be.

He then said: In our view, what this commission will enact will be the views of the Plan and Budget Commission, not the views of the specialist commissions.

He said another of the motion's problems is considering the annual budget in two phases, and he said this differs from the procedure for considering other bills.

Seyyed Morteza Nabavi spoke in support of the motion. He said: The existing guidelines prevent the budget from being compiled, because the Joint Plan and Budget Commission and the specialist commissions create conflicting bills, and the Guidelines commission does not have the right to combine them. This produces conflicts of opinion in the open session, and they cannot be resolved. At the same time, in the first consultation on the Second Five-Year Plan, the Combined Commission showed its experience and was successful. The views of all the specialist commissions were well accounted for.

He then said: All views are taken into account in the Combined Commission, and we will not have the least disturbance in the open session.

Continuing, the deputy from Tehran added: If there are problems in the motion, they can be resolved when we deal with its details. There will be fewer problems than in the current situation, which has many.

It is worth mentioning that continued consideration of this motion was postponed to the next session.

Majles Notes

Deputy from Lanjan's Guidelines Memo

In his guidelines memorandum responding to Elias Hazrati's preagenda speech, Mohsen Kuhkan said: In his preagenda speech Mr. Hazrati announced that most of the Majles deputies believe that the previous managers were stronger than the current managers. I must explain that in this regard no one has said anything, nor has a vote been taken in the Majles.

Efforts By Some Deputies!

A significant point in yesterday's Majles proceedings was the effort by a number of deputies in the minority faction to prevent passage of the motion to question Paragraph B Note 25 of the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] Budget Law, with regard to designating the rate for telephone calls. Unfortunately a number of deputies belonging to this faction were active in attempting to eliminate this motion's urgency status.

One of the deputies, citing Article 76 of the Constitution, asked that this issue not be raised in the Majles, but his speech was cut short by a reminder from the speaker. Another group of deputies signed a motion to eliminate the motion's very urgent status, seeking to delay its consideration. In view of the fact that it has taken six months to bring up this motion, if its very urgent status were eliminated, its passage would be delayed by several months.

On the other hand, a number of deputies in the minority faction were intensely active in seeking to persuade the deputies to vote against approving the reduced telephone rate. Most of the deputies, however, who know the reason for the opposition by these gentlemen, voted with awareness in favor of this motion.

Yesterday Dr. Kamran, deputy from Esfahan, told our correspondent: The conclusions reached by Esfahan Airport officials and by the province's judicial authorities concerning the reasons for the crash of the Asman aircraft, differ from one another. The documents from the judicial officials indicate a technical deficiency, and they said the reason for the delay in clarifying the issue was lack of cooperation from province airline officials. In view of the fact that the people of Esfahan are waiting for the result to be announced, there must be more cooperation between the judicial officials and Esfahan Airport.

The Majles deputies who see ministers in the Majles, make great efforts to carry out development projects in their electoral precincts. Yesterday there was a sharp conversation between Engineer Torkan, the minister of roads and transport, and the deputy from Sovmeh Sara.

Mr. Ramezanpur was insisting that the grading and asphalting for this municipality's beltway, which is 3 km long, must be completed in any way possible out of national credits, but the minister of roads and transport said: We have requests for 510 beltline roads in the country, but there is not an adequate budget for these projects and priority goes to half-complete projects. As minister of roads and transport, I will not be accepting any new projects before the end of the Second Five-Year Plan.

The debate between the deputy and the minister about obtaining credits reached no conclusion, and Mr Torkan promised to complete this project out of province credits.

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